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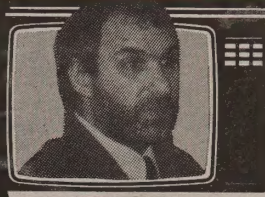
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Let 'em roll!



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Pride of Place American activist Judy Heumann (left), co-founder of the first CIL in California, and Rachel Hurst, chair of the Greenwich Association of Disabled People, let themselves go at a reception at Christchurch Forum, new home of London's CIL.

First London CIL moves to new home

The first Centre for Independent Living in south-east England has seen its dreams come true.

After 4 years of cramped, old offices in south London, it has moved to a smart, spacious, fully-accessible building where people with disabilities will find a range of services under one roof.

In a renovated and extended church, the Greenwich Association of Disabled People now works alongside parent groups like Greenwich MENCAP and the Greenwich Toy Library, Greenwich CRUSE (bereavement counselling) and local church groups. Graeae Theatre Company will also be based there.

Once it is completed, the 3-storey building will not only offer information, advice and support services to disabled people living in the community, self-help groups, Dial-a-Ride and so on, but there will be a workshop for repairing wheelchairs and making small aids, a pre-school play group area and soft room, a hydrotherapy pool, a hall, a coffee bar, an exhibition and reception area, an information library, counselling rooms, offices and parking space.

"People can now come to Greenwich and learn what CILs are all about and see how disabled people themselves are working for an equal and full part in society," says Rachel Hurst, chair of GAD and vice-chair of the new Christchurch Forum. "And at the Forum we not only have our CIL but, by sharing with

disability and non-disability groups, we can show that integration is possible."

It is also important, she thinks, that the toy library is part of the Forum. "For the first time disabled children will see adults with disabilities as pro-active role models".

To Judy Heumann, a founder of the first CIL in Berkeley, California, and guest of honour at the opening, "It was like coming home".

Christchurch Forum is a registered charity. In two years it has raised £750,000 of the £2,200,000 needed to complete the project.

Fundraising was hard at first, says Linda Loft, organiser of GAD. "People didn't have vision. They didn't want to provide a drop in the ocean. Now they can see it happening and the money is coming in."

Centre for Independent Living, Christchurch Forum, Trafalgar Road, London SE10 9EQ, tel: 01-305 2221.

Judy Heumann rallies people with disabilities, see page 3.

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CP projects worth £80m threatened

Fears are growing in the voluntary sector that many of the 894 MSC-funded Community Programme projects which provide services to disabled people are going to disappear or be drastically cut back when Employment Training replaces the CP in September.

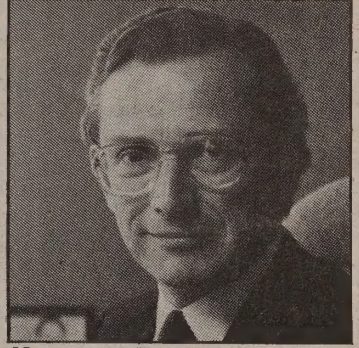
The new scheme emphasises training, not work experience. Many existing CP projects will not fit easily into this new category and face a loss of funding.

At a meeting in May with Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, representatives from the voluntary sector proposed that the Government should set up a separate Community Fund to support projects which are delivering important community services.

Dave Simmonds, head of the Employment Unit at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, described the meeting as "constructive" and said: "We hope that we can now start detailed discussions."

No sums of money have yet been discussed but over £80 million of CP funding is being spent this year on services for disabled people.

The MSC's own report explaining the new adult training programme, which came out in January, stated: "The Commission would hope to use its good offices with Government departments to secure recognition of the worth of some of those providers in offering facilities or services to local communities."



Norman Fowler: a moral obligation to help

Dave Simmonds argues that as Norman Fowler accepted the report in its entirety, the Department of Employment has a "moral obligation" to do something to help those schemes which can't survive.

The charity I CAN, which works with speech impaired

children, disabled adults and families, supervises 450 people on CP schemes in London.

It provides many services including "befriending" mentally handicapped people (taking them shopping or to restaurants and cinemas), a mobility link for physically disabled people, so they can go out safely and running a tape and braille service.

George Nash, I CAN's assistant regional manager in London, says the MSC recognises the need for this type of work in the community, but is thinking in terms of consortia - groups of CP agencies working together locally under the new ET scheme.

"The nature of our course is long-term but if other agencies, such as builders or computer companies, can provide 8 programmes a year, financially we are going to be the poor relations," he says.

Chris Mears, of the Alzheimer's Disease Society, who is a co-ordinator on the MSC-funded Caring Project in Dorset, already knows that the service her scheme provides is going to be cut.

"We run 4 day centres for de-

continued on page 3

More choice?

The biggest social work research project to be undertaken in England was launched last month. It aims to find out how much choice elderly people and families with children at risk can be given by the social services.

Involving 60 social workers in Westminster, London and Bradford, together with researchers from the universities of Bradford and Sheffield, the project follows on from the Wagner report (see DN April) which recommends that people who move into residential care should do so from "positive choice".

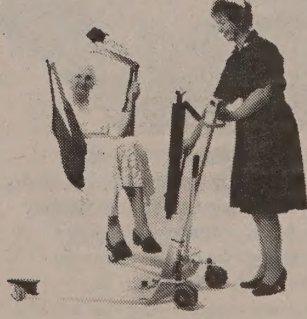
The research, which is called "Social Work in Partnership", will pay particular attention to the problems facing elderly people who do not wish to go into residential care but whose families think they should.

"People ask for what they think they can get," said Mike Fisher, research director at Bradford University. "If they think the only way social services can help elderly people is to put them in homes, this is what they will ask for. We have got to change the atmosphere so that people know they can get help in their own homes."

The project will run for 3 years and has a £130,000 grant from the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust.

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DN 6/88

Letters to the Editor

Disability Now 12 Park Crescent London W1N 4EQ

No help for employer

I read with interest your front page article concerning disabled job hunters (DN, May).

I started my business over a year ago with the intention of offering a job to a disabled person. However, it was incredibly difficult to get information concerning rules and regulations governing such jobs and even more difficult getting any help with locating such a person.

In the end I gave up.

If information was made readily available for prospective employers, who generally are very busy people, then I feel your readers would have a better chance of securing employment.

Dennis R Goodes
1a Laurel Way
Bishop Auckland
Co. Durham DL14 7NF

London taxicard users – unite!

A group of people with disabilities, who believe that there is a great need for an organisation which could promote an efficient and reliable service for Taxicard holders, have got together to form a user group. We feel it should be an alternative transport service which would complement and ease some of the over-burdened Dial-a-Rides, but in no way be in competition.

Many disabled people are registered with both Taxicard and Dial-a-Ride. Availability of both services would enable users to choose which one best served each particular transport need.

The aims of the Taxicard Users Group are to form, in the first instance, area or borough user groups, which in turn would lead to a London-wide Taxicard Users Association. This would be run, so we believe, on similar lines to the London Dial-a-Ride Users Association.

We think that many people

with disabilities would be interested in ensuring that the Taxicard service is not withdrawn or cut-back. Certain boroughs, which have already dropped out of the Taxicard scheme in favour of their own voucher systems, would be requested to reconsider their decision and, hopefully, would re-enter the overall system once again.

If you are a Taxicard holder and would like to know more of our aims and proposals, please write (typescript, braille or cassette) to

Doreen Chaney
The Taxicard Users Group
c/o St Margarets
25 Leighton Road
London NW5 2QD

Never comfortable with any leg

I was very interested to read your article on "ALACs – are you getting a better deal?" (DN February).

I have a below the knee amputation and attend Roehampton. I had my first leg in January 1987 but I have never been comfortable with any leg yet.

The problem seems to be the time you have to wait. You have a cast taken and you are lucky if you have a fitting at the earliest six weeks later. Then the leg has to be finished. By the time you get your leg, the stump has altered so that it does not fit any more.

I feel that doctors and fitters could not care less. They have a very indifferent attitude. Also, I think you should be given appointment cards when leaving the centre, instead of just being told "we will let you know when to come".

To be quite honest, I feel disgusted with the way this department is run and with the way money is being wasted.

M Dullam
Mitcham, Surrey

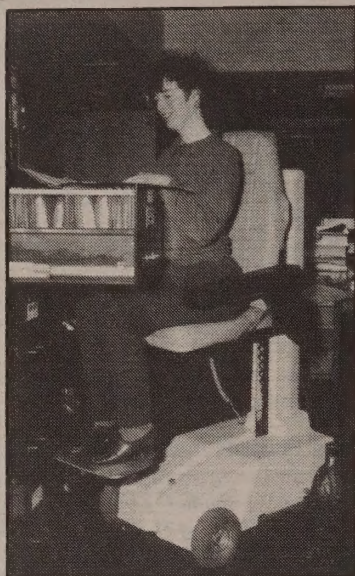
A new chair instead of a new kitchen

I suffer from Muscular Dystrophy and I have been using a wheelchair for the last 4 years – to start with just for shopping trips but now I spend most of the day in one.

I go out to work 4½ days a week at a large engineering firm.

When it became obvious that I really needed a wheelchair for work I contacted the MSC. They came to assess me. I had to have an electric chair as my arms and hands are too weak to propel a hand model.

I did a lot of "research" into what chair would suit me and my work environment best. I visited the Mobility Road Show and



Julia Cairns at work.

then had a selection of models on trial at work.

Having read your Living Independently features in February and May, in which people say they cannot use their work surfaces because they are the wrong height, I thought that my electric wheelchair which I use at work would solve that problem instantly. It is called a High Rider, made by Everest & Jennings (Corby), near Bournemouth.

This chair is simply amazing – it raises and lowers one so you can pick things off the floor and reach into wall cupboards. I cannot understand why its obvious huge advantages have not been recognised.

There would be no need to adapt kitchens for wheelchair people if they had a High-Rider (no, I don't sell them!). Of course, as always, the major hurdle is the cost (£2,595 plus possibly £70 for a charger) but compared with the price of adapting kitchens it would appear to be a bargain.

I have mentioned this type of chair to my occupational therapist. She had heard of it but she did not think it was possible to get one from social services because they are not a fixture or a fitting.

A kitchen or any house adaptation is a fixture or fitting and is funded (I think) through the local council. How stupid can we get!

Julia Cairns
Kempston
Bedford

Goldmine

Charities are sitting on a potential goldmine now that payroll giving is being made widely available. With over 5 million people able to give tax free (20 per cent of the workforce) there must be fantastic opportunities.

It can be quite easy to raise money. Every group or centre has some enthusiastic supporters who work in organisations with payroll giving schemes eg

ICI, BP, Shell or a local council.

Here's a way to raise a small amount without difficulty. Identify something your group or centre does which costs £120, say physiotherapy courses or holidays for children. Ten work colleagues can be persuaded easily to give £1 per month to your group for a year. Each person may only give a little, but the cause will benefit by £120.

You may be more ambitious. Find 10 people to give £10 per month and you could pay for a specially adapted computer (£1,200).

The possibilities are endless. The sooner The Spastics Society and its affiliates start using this unique chance, the sooner people with cerebral palsy will benefit.

If you want any further advice, please contact me.

Bill Bruty
Corporate Fund Raising Officer
The Spastics Society
12 Park Crescent
London W1N 4EQ

More ideas for euthanasia

Congratulations to George Theobald for his brilliant letter to Yvonne (DN March). He echoed my sentiments so precisely.

May I just add other vexations to Yvonne's recipe. What about the really crippling diseases of our modern times, vices such as selfishness, greed and lust – the list could be endless.

Being so preoccupied with this job, she and her friends wouldn't have time to worry about the trivialities of our disabilities; they would be a drop in the ocean in comparison. We would have time to enjoy the good life then!

This same message I would pass on to the pro-abortionists in our society. They are every bit as icy.

Teresa Connor
Edinburgh

Where is love?

What has happened to The Spastics Society over the last few years? What has happened to "love", the love that united us for years?

Do other readers feel as I do about disability? Do they feel that *Disability Now* uses us as pawns in the political game they play?

I now dread reading your publication. A few odd letters like the positive one from Fabio Bevan are a joy – but otherwise your paper has very little to do with the real people I love, know and care about.

If you are the mouthpiece of The Spastics Society, I must sever all links with the Society. This move will not affect you, but is very sad for me. You, I suppose, have grown and I have not.

Maybe the fault is mine – but I do not like the political "thing" that has been created, and want no part in it.

Catherine Arnold
Dullingham Vicarage
Newmarket
Suffolk

Disability Now aims to reflect the interests and concerns of its readers. A disclaimer appears at the bottom of page 16 – Editor.

Satisfied

I read in your newspaper about claiming for attendance allowance, which I did, and have just heard that I am to receive it.

I am very grateful as I am disabled and live in my wheelchair. Thank you very much for printing about the claim.

J Waldson
Newbury

(sic)

DN's diary column by Julian Marshall

Vase farce

Fancy an unbreakable aluminium vase (various colours)? Williams (Pressings & Spinings) Co Ltd of Wolverhampton have just the thing. They are apparently "tough and resilient to damage, but at the same time unbreakable" and "ideal for such uses as geriatric and psychiatric wards, prisons, special schools, handicapped centres and social services operations." What on earth could it be that links old people, disabled children and convicts? Readers who find the insinuation insulting to all parties mentioned are hereby invited to test the "unbreakability" claim on the head of an employee of The Market Support Group, creators of the offending press release.

Split Ministries

Having heard that the Government was thinking of splitting the DHSS into 2 separate ministries, I read a story in the 1 April issue of *Residential and Day Care Weekly* with some interest. The interest rapidly turned to incredulity as I learned that the ministries may be called the Department of Caring, to be headed by Edwina "let-them-eat-vegiburgers" Currie, and the Department of Sharing, headed by Minister-with-Portillo, Michael Portfollio (or was it the other way round?). Eventually the penny dropped when I reached the name of the director of the Social Services Development Association: Alf Loprio.

Small mercies

Few people have cause to be thankful for a computer breaking down, but one Bristol woman perhaps might. Civil servants administering the controversial Social Fund announced last month that thousands of claimants are already being forced to turn to it for crisis loans for food and lodging. One office alone in Bristol made over 300 loans in the first 3 weeks, one of which was to a destitute woman who had to be protected from being beaten up by her husband. She could only get £60, and even that would have had to be to be paid back at £11 per week. "Fortunately," said a DHSS spokesman, "the computer broke down and we were able to cut the repayments to £5." Don't some people have all the luck?

PHAG

Charities can't be too choosy where they get their cash from, so far be it from me to moralise. But in the light of all the evidence linking smoking with premature birth and low weight babies, as well as lung cancer, bronchitis and other disabling diseases, not to mention the number of limbs that are lost each year through smoking-related vascular disease (figures not available for the UK, but 200 organ amputations per year in Western Australia, according to ASH), it was a little naughty of PHAB's spring magazine to run a full colour outside back page ad for cigarettes. A case of close your eyes and think of £575?

Contributions, please to DN

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H23

"Europe feels to me like it's about to explode..."

Mary Wilkinson reports

... Judy Heumann told a packed meeting of 150 people with disabilities in April. She had been visiting Germany and France (last year, Sweden and Italy) and was now in London, courtesy of the London Boroughs Disability Committee.

"In my travels I have seen groups like the ones we are with today really struggling," she said. "It's not only important for us to work within our countries for ourselves, but to be role models for people around the world."

The Centre for Independent Living in California, which she helped to found, has spawned 200 CILs across America - they get \$22 million a year from the federal government.

The independent living movement, she said, has "empowered" disabled people to make their dreams a reality - a job, housing, a paid attendant, even litigation ("I'm a strong believer in suing"). It has been done by mutual support, by people acting as role models for each other and by learning to say "no" to those who tell you it is impossible.

She thinks elderly people should not accept "no" either. Encouraged by professionals, they tend to think of themselves as "sick" or "frail" rather than disabled and to accept segregated facilities. It is "critically important", she believes, that more leaders of the disability movement should come from among older people.

She also wants to persuade TABS (temporarily able-bodied) that they too will need the disability movement one day.



Leon Morris

Judy Heumann first became involved with disability issues when, as a teacher with polio who used a wheelchair, she was denied a job in New York state. She took the board of education to court and won.

In 1973 she moved to California, where she and others founded the non-residential Centre for Independent Living. For the first time, people with varied disabilities living in the community controlled the ser-

vices they needed. There are now CILs all over the world.

After taking a masters degree in public health at the University of California, Judy Heumann worked as a legislative aide to the chairman of the Senate Labour and Public Welfare Committee.

Now she is co-director of the World Institute on Disability in Berkeley, which promotes independent living world-wide, researches subjects like attendant services or ageing and disability and produces policies on which to lobby the federal government.

Since the '70s she has been an activist. Last September, while demonstrating against inaccessible buses at a transport conference, she broke another "barrier to inequality" and was arrested.

Now she is suing the San Francisco Hilton Hotel for \$7.5m because she was illegally locked out during the demonstrations.

Judy Heumann links the disability movement to other historic movements against discrimination. Martin Luther King's march on Washington in 1963 was a "major event in the lives of disabled people", showing them the effectiveness of mass demonstration covered by the media and the uses of litigation. By contrast, disability organisations were split into different disabilities and many spoke with the voice of the fundraiser.

As a result, when the independent living centres evolved, they were controlled by disabled people. "We recognised that we had to speak for ourselves."

The first large demonstration was in 1977, in San Francisco, when the federal building was taken over for an historic 28 days. It arose from frustration that the anti-discrimination legislation of 1973 had still not been implemented.

Yet it took 4 years to reach that point. "I think one of the reasons we don't fight as hard as we might for the removal of barriers is that somewhere inside us we are embarrassed that these barriers have to be removed." "We finally said in the '70s: 'We are not embarrassed. We did not create the barriers and they must come down'."

Thumbs up for case managers

Case managers are in a unique position to help people with disabilities get the care and facilities they need. This was the message of a conference last month which looked at the findings of an independent case manager project in London, funded by the Kings Fund.

The project was set up in Camden and Islington 2 years ago with the aim of giving people with disabilities access to the services they need without a frustrating struggle, and the same kind of say in running their own lives as the rest of the population. In just over a year they had 142 referrals.

The project found that case managers are the best people to provide information to people with disabilities and co-ordinate services for them because they are independent of the service-providers and act only on behalf of their disabled clients.

One person who used the service said: "The case manager is in more of a position to chase all the authorities. She doesn't have to worry if she'll upset someone."

A case manager can help to draw up a package of co-ordinated services, by liaising with all the agencies involved in providing care. They can also play the role of advocate for a person with a disability.

The Griffiths report on community care, published in March, called for case managers to be used to provide individually tailored packages of care for elderly and disabled people and those with learning difficulties.

The Case Management Service is now a registered charity called CHOICE. It has produced a set of guidelines, called *The Way Forward*, price £2, which explains what case management is and how to set up a project.

CHOICE, 152 Camden Road, London NW1.



Blackpool Evening Gazette

The Bond's manager Muriel Cocker and guests.

Donkeys and ice-cream

If you have a yearning for the donkey rides and ice cream cones of the great English holiday, the newly-opened Bond Hotel in Blackpool may be just the thing.

After nearly 2 years work and £600,000 spent, what was once a run down clothes factory is now the famous seaside town's first purpose-built hotel for disabled people.

The 34 bedrooms, each with ensuite bathrooms, come ready-fitted with all the necessary aids, from bath hoists to wheelchair chargers and there are wide corridors, low light switches, ramps,

wheelchair-accessible doors and a lift.

Chairman of the Blackpool and Fylde Spastics Group, Ruth Anderson, was at the official opening of the Bond.

"As a hotel catering for disabled people, I have not seen a better one," she says. "I don't think there is anyone who is disabled who could not enjoy a holiday there."

★ Until the end of July there is a special offer price of £50 per person for 3 nights, dinner and breakfast, or £125 for 7 nights with dinner and breakfast. Tel: (0253) 41218.

CP projects under threat

continued from page 1
mentia sufferers and provide a sitting service so that 35 carers can have a day off. We were told that if we got the service off the ground we would get a permanent contract. We did, but we haven't."

West Dorset Area Health Authority will take over some of the service, running one day centre at a new chalet in Bridport, but the sitting service will end.

"I'm sure the MSC have got their own reasons for the changes, but for a project like

ours it doesn't help at all. We have used 48 people over 2 years and over 80 per cent of them have gone on to long-term employment.

Peter Little is assistant director of The Rathbone Society's community programme division which supervises 1,800 CP places nationally. He says: "The MSC does not seem to be addressing the potential loss of services to disabled people."

"It is apparent that a lot of well established services may not be able to continue under MSC funding. What will happen then?"

UK leads in the driving stakes

David Griffiths reports

EEC proposals to streamline driving licences for disabled drivers met strong opposition from many representatives at the Paris convention of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport in April. They were criticised mainly for including the exact modifications and controls a disabled driver needed on the licence.

Britain and Eire led the way by arguing that such a procedure would add to the delay in granting a licence and restrict the right of someone with a handicap to be treated as equal. At worst it might prevent someone from holding a licence at all.

Dr John Taylor, chief medical adviser to the Department of Transport, emphasised the equality and rights of disabled people in Britain, and this greatly influenced other members who are lagging behind.

In Italy, for example, a disabled person must satisfy a whole series of medical tests, often administered by people with no knowledge or understanding of his disability. In Belgium, disabled drivers pass their test in Holland and then return with a licence to prove to the Belgian authorities that they can drive.

It was finally agreed that the proposals were unacceptable and that simpler wording should be used.

At an exhibition of new developments in disabled driving, the stars of the show were an Astra fitted with the world's first 4-way joystick control from Steering Developments, and the Coventry-built Talbot Express Freeway - comfort at last for disabled passengers in a minibus.

It may surprise some people

to learn that technologically Britain is among the world leaders in vehicle adaptation. It is a pity that we have to spoil it by failing to ensure that financial equality forms part of the package.

David Griffiths runs the Mobility Information Service, tel: (0743) 77489.

FREEDOM

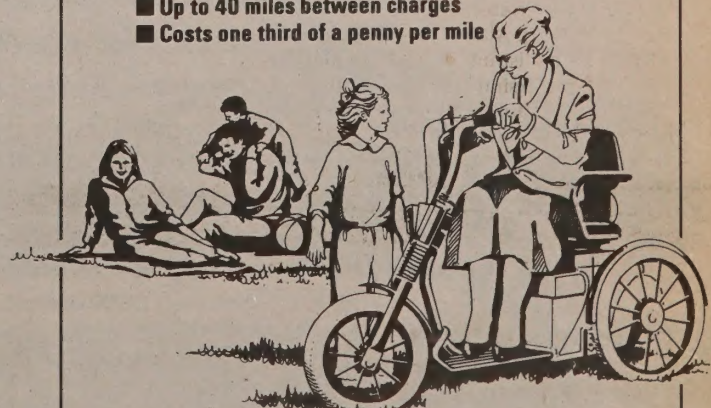
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MONTH IN PARLIAMENT



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Concessions given on benefit cuts

Social Services Secretary John Moore offered 3 concessions during an emergency Opposition debate over the housing benefit cuts imposed in April. The changes were agreed by ministers as a result of the outcry from opposition MPs and Tory backbenchers.

Mr Moore announced that the ceiling of £6,000 savings, above which housing benefit is to be withdrawn, would be raised to £8,000. People will still lose £1 per week benefit for every £250 capital they have up to the new £8,000 limit.

He also promised that the estimated 300,000 people who had lost more than £2.50 a week in the benefit change-over will be offered transitional help. Those affected are mainly pensioners, disabled people and families with children. The help will cost an extra £70 million a year, he said.

The third concession was to people whose benefits would stop because property they own would be counted as capital when benefit is calculated. They will now be given at least 6 months to dispose of the property, backdated to 11 April.

Mr Moore said the changes would tackle the concern which had emerged from MPs' constituency surgeries, but Margaret Beckett, Labour's social security spokesperson, said the conces-

sions only dealt with the tip of the iceberg and Shadow Social Services Secretary, Robin Cook, said either the Government knew the benefit cuts would cause hardship, in which case they were cruel; or they did not know, in which case they were incompetent - a theory he was more inclined to.

Alton Bill: gone but not forgotten

Amid angry scenes in the Commons on 7 May, David Alton's Abortion (Amendment) Bill, which would have lowered the time limit for abortions from 28 to 18 weeks, was effectively defeated when it ran out of time.

Debate on the report stage of the bill was completed, but there was not enough time left to vote on the 3 crucial amendments: whether the proposed 18 week limit should be changed to 20,



Alton: his fight goes on.

22 or 24 weeks.

The first 40 minutes of the debate were taken up by MPs' points of order and the presentation of 10 petitions opposing the Bill. Mr Alton's supporters were angered, and during an opposition speech by Claire Short (Lab), when it was realised time was running out, they chanted "Vote, vote".

One week later, a last-chance vote on the Bill was frustrated when MPs on both sides of the

House spent 5 hours debating a bill to make the wearing of seat belts compulsory for children. Leader of the House, John Wakeham, refused to allow any extra Government time.

Mr Alton is now looking at ways of inserting a clause on abortion as an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill now in the Commons.

Mates leads Tory MPs revolt over poll tax

The Government's majority was cut from 101 to 25 at the end of April as 38 Tory backbenchers rebelled against a flat-rate community charge, or poll tax, and another 13 abstained.

The rebellion came during the report stage of the Local Government Finance Bill, and was focused on an amendment by Michael Mates (Con) to link the flat-rate poll tax to people's ability to pay. The Mates proposal was for a 3-tier system in which anyone earning below the income tax threshold would only pay 50 per cent of the poll tax. The amendment was rejected, 320 votes to 295.

The revolt could have been larger had the Government not offered a concession only days before the debate. They had already said that people dependent on income support would get poll tax rebates of up to 80 per cent, payable through the housing benefit system. The new concession reduces rebates to people on low incomes by 15p for every £1 rise in their net earnings above the income support level, rather than the 20p "taper" for every £1 rise under the present domestic rates system. The Government claimed this would reduce the poll tax bill for another 1 million people.

But there was backbench anger when leaked minutes of a meeting of Cabinet ministers showed that the £115 - £135 million "concession" would be clawed back in other ways: by increasing the overall commun-

ity charge, and by increasing the rent rebate "taper" from 65 per cent to 70 per cent, thereby taking back with reduced rent rebates what had been lost on poll tax rebates.

Amendments to give a 100 per cent rebate to people entitled to income support with disablement or pensioner premiums; attendance allowance; mobility allowance; severe disablement allowance or those who are registered as blind or partially-sighted, or are over 80 years old, were rejected.

Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, described the amendments as "nonsense". "To make someone liable and then give them a 100 per cent rebate would be pointless," he said.

HOUSE OF LORDS

Lords flex their muscles

The Local Government Finance Bill then moved on to the Lords, where it had its second reading.

Lord Pym, the former Conservative Foreign Secretary, told peers that the community charge did not have the necessary support of the public, by which he meant "a general acceptance, rather than just a manifesto commitment."

The tax was also attacked by opposition peers, by the Bishop of Gloucester, who called it "harsh, unfeeling, and threatening to those who are vulnerable" and by three other Tory peers - Lords Chelwood, Carr and Ellenborough.

Between them, they set the scene for a possible Lords rebellion at the end of May when the Bill goes into committee.

Defending the Bill, Environment Minister in the Lords, Earl Caithness, denounced the rates system as grossly unfair. Under the community charge, 80 per cent of pensioners and 80 per cent of one-parent families would be better off, he said.

Julian Marshall

Training cash boost

Four new courses to train "communicators" to work with deaf people are to be set up with £200,000 from the Manpower Services Commission (MSC).

Communicators are used to support deaf and hard of hearing trainees on the Youth Training Scheme and the Job Training Scheme under the MSC's Communication Service for the Deaf. They can act as sign language interpreters, lipspeakers and note-takers. The service will also be available on the new Employment Training Programme which begins in September.

There is only one communicators' course in the country at the moment, run jointly by the Birmingham Institute for the Deaf and Coventry Technical College.

"With the new courses, more than 60 trained communicators will become available each year to support deaf people in training for work," said Mike Whitlam, the RNID's chief executive.



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News in Brief

New joint nursing-social work course

Nurses and social workers are to be trained together to meet the needs of people with learning difficulties, on a unique new course to start in September.

The Shared Qualifying Training Initiative will prepare nurses and social workers to provide better community services for people with learning difficulties. Already community care policies require close co-operation between health and social service departments.

The course is a joint project between the health authorities of Bromley, Maidstone, Medway, Tunbridge Wells and SE Kent and the joint management committee of the SE Bromley Certificate in Social Services scheme. It has been set up with the support of nursing and social work bodies.

For more information contact Jim Wood, project officer, tel: 01-462 8115.

Competition in limb industry heats up

The Disablement Services Authority has acted on its pledge to increase competition in the artificial limb industry.

From 1 March 2 new contractors were introduced to supply prosthetic services for artificial legs at 3 out of the 30 Disablement Services Centres, in addition to existing suppliers. Hugh Steeper Ltd now serves both the Bristol and Oxford centres. Rehabilitation Services Ltd, a new company run by independent prosthetists, serves the Harold Wood centre in Romford.

During the summer firms will be invited to tender for contracts to supply artificial legs to the DSA.

Prosthetic services at the remaining centres will also be open for tender on a regional basis over the next year. All the new contracts should be in force by July 1989.

Integrated Essex housing estate

A major private house building company has for the first time included purpose-built bungalows for disabled people in one of its developments.

Ideal Homes Anglia has built 5 of its 103 new properties at Frinton, Essex, with features to suit disabled people. These include wider doors, ramps, adapted bathrooms and power points and switches at waist height.

The bungalows, all with three bedrooms, will be on sale soon. Contact Ideal Homes Anglia, 40A The Street, Capel St Mary, Ipswich, Suffolk, tel: (0473) 310494.

Telethon appeal builds adapted homes

Four disabled couples in Bradford have new homes, after thousands of pounds was pledged to last month's Telethon appeal to build them.

Two months before the appeal, The Yorkshire Building Society pledged £100,000 for the bungalows, Bradford Council donated the £30,000 site and the North British Housing Association contributed £40,000.

The Totty Building Group built the bungalows at cost in 80 days and the first couple, Leslie Evans and Winifred Barnes, received their keys during the Telethon.

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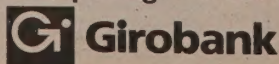
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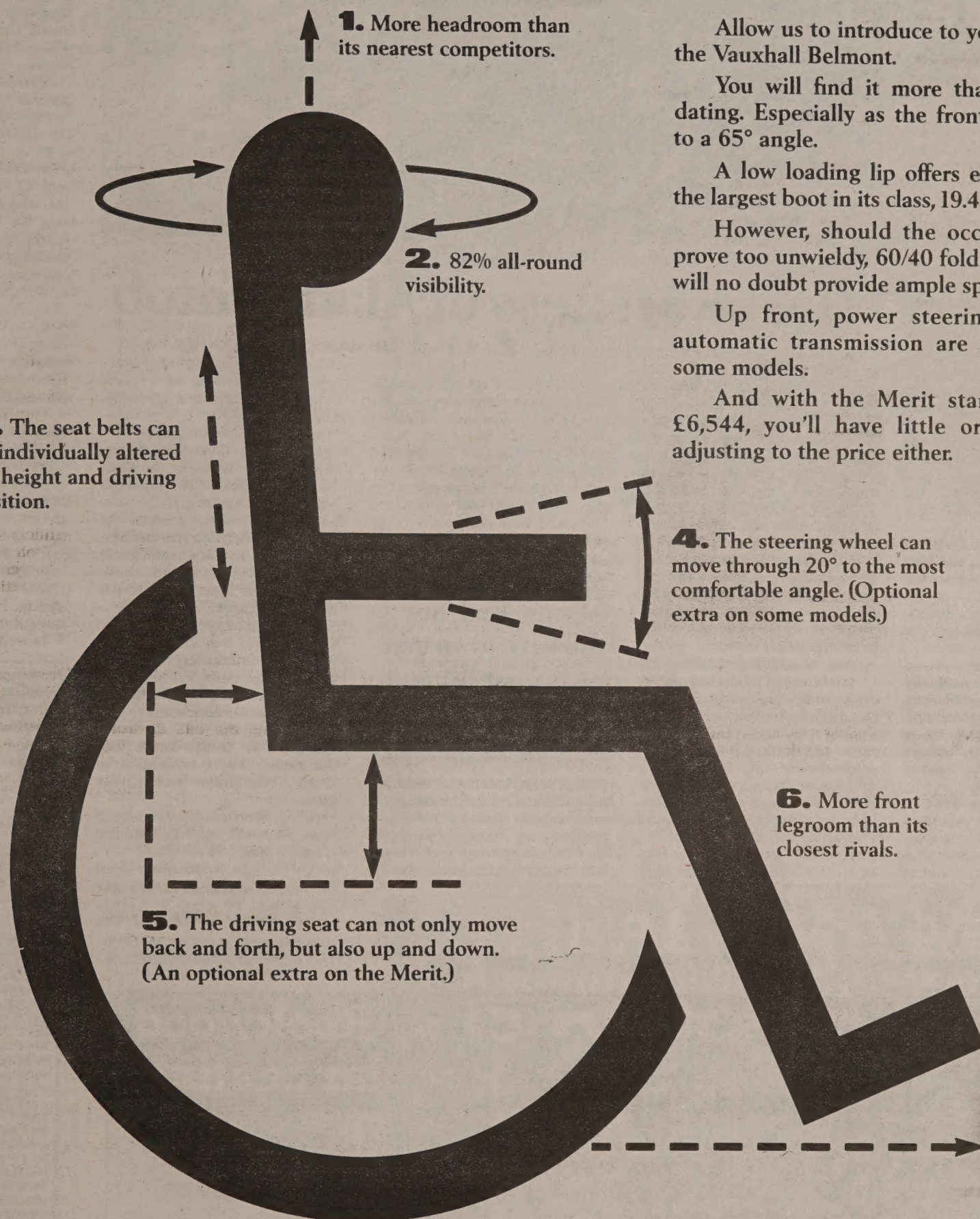
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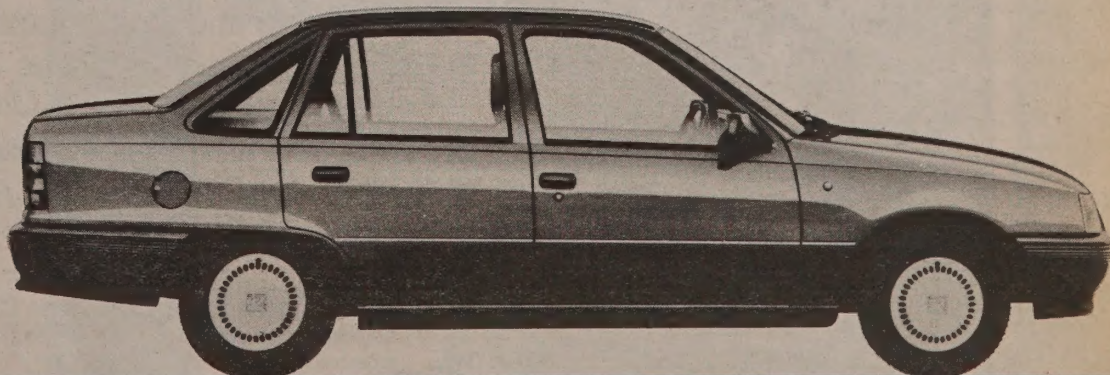
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DN 6/88



VAUXHALL. ONCE DRIVEN, FOREVER SMITTEN.

The winds of change are blowing through the BBC. Of all the companies involved in broadcasting, the BBC seems to be responding most readily to the aspirations of disabled people who wish to be seen on, and employed in, television.

Alan Yentob, Controller of BBC2, certainly knows which way this wind is blowing. If there's one thing he is aware of it's "awareness". That was the most frequently used word in my conversation with him.

His awareness of disability comes from experience. "A number of my family and friends are disabled in different ways. I wouldn't say I was brought up day to day with the problems of the disabled, but certainly when I've been on holiday with my disabled cousin I've understood what it is to be disabled."

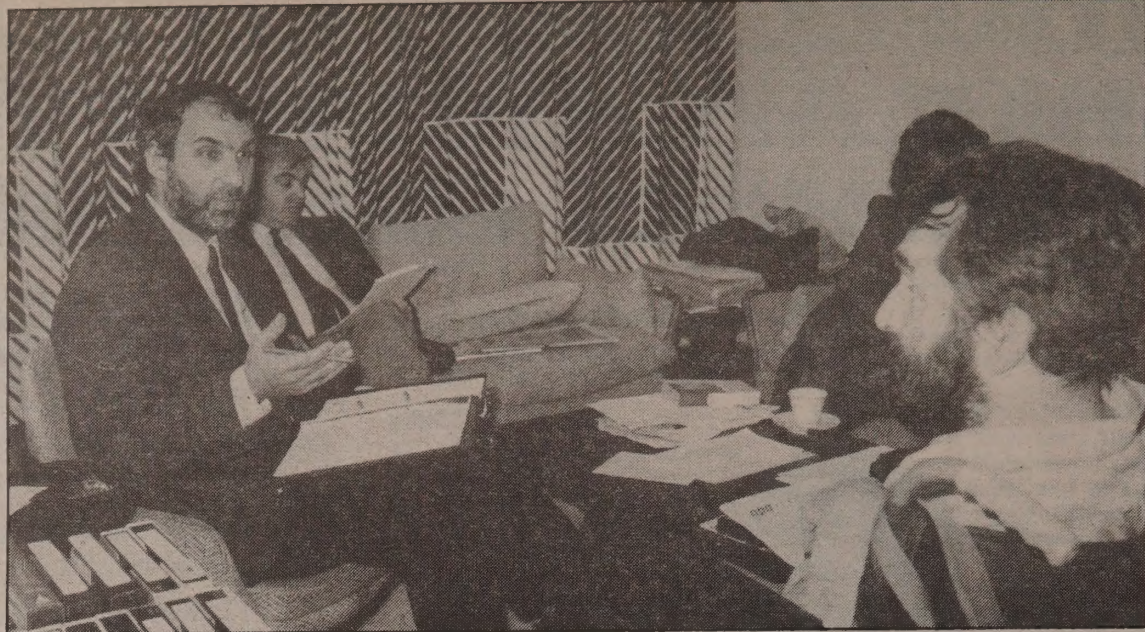
Alan Yentob is a no-nonsense, plain-speaking person; above all he is honest. While admitting that television has a responsibility to the disabled community, he also acknowledges that it is doubtful whether it's fulfilling that responsibility.

He would like to improve things but, as he explained, there's only a certain amount that he can do. "One person can take the lead, but you have to change a whole institution and the attitudes within it to see that disabled people find their way into programmes."

"For the last 5 or 10 years it has been very rare that the BBC or television in general has addressed the question of disabled people really seriously. But that's partly because it was not on the agenda."

"There has been a lack of consultation with people with disabilities," added Harriet Mantey, equal opportunities officer, BBC television. "Consultation is seen as something of primary importance and something we want to encourage."

Alan Yentob knows what he wants to avoid in programmes: "stereotypes such as 'disabled people don't understand what you are saying to them' and all levels of disability are the same... and that disabled people don't have anything in common with



Chris Davies with Alan Yentob (left), Peter Ibbotson, Deputy Controller BBC2 and Helen Mantey.

The awareness of Alan Yentob

Chris Davies asks the Controller of BBC2 where he stands on disability issues

the able-bodied community."

One way of avoiding these pitfalls might be to insist on having disabled people seen only in mainstream, and not specialist, programmes. But Alan Yentob does not go along with that.

"There is a need for a specialist programme addressing essentially disabled people, but also able to communicate with able-bodied people. And to some extent, it is also part of a 'propaganda war' - it is important that people understand what it is like to be disabled."

"Any programme which goes on television is going to have to draw on a wider audience than its target audience."

"I think it's sensible not to create a ghetto even in disabled programmes."

"I know there are some parts of the disabled community who believe (disability programmes) should be hermetically sealed. But that's no way to win the battle or the war. Even in disabled programmes we should have a mixture of the able-bodied and the disabled."

Alan Yentob has a reputation for gearing programmes towards specialist audiences. Among those he commissioned, were the two Cliff Morgan documentaries on disability sports; the *40 Minutes* programme *I, Alison* and *One in Four*.

I asked why the sports programmes were less about the

"One person can take the lead, but you have to change a whole institution and the attitudes within it..."

events than about the disabled people competing. He thought it was because there are so few programmes on disabled sports that "when they are made that's the issue which tends to be central".

He sees *I, Alison* as a very positive force for change. "I would

say that film will have done something to improve the image of disabled people."

And as for *One in Four*?

He liked the mix of people and disabilities in it and particularly its broad appeal - he would not like to see it become more insular. "There's a fantastic service to be done in increasing awareness outside the disabled community and I think as a weapon towards that *One in Four* will be extremely valuable."

He also sees programmes like *See Hear* and *One in Four* playing a role in eroding resistance to sub-titles.

While he understands that for deaf people the lack of open subtitles could be seen as discrimination, he is also aware that the public has a resistance to them - even in foreign language films.

Again, increasing awareness is Alan Yentob's answer, but he thinks "the awareness campaign has got to go quite a lot further" before general subtitling will be possible. Technology which allows selective

access to subtitles may be another answer - but there is always the problem of funding it.

What is Alan Yentob likely to do in the future? When he was in charge of the BBC arts department he commissioned an early documentary about Graeae theatre company, and would like to do more on disability arts.

He also liked the idea of a programme on television and disability along the lines of *The Black and White Media Show* which investigated racism in the media.

Above all, he sees the need for greater communication between disabled people and broadcasters.

He is by no means alone in this. The BBC is contributing, with ITV and Channel 4, towards the cost of a major research survey by the Broadcasting Research Unit into the whole relationship between disability and television. Among other things, it will be looking at the possibility of setting up a consultative body so that disabled people and programme makers can communicate more easily. The first results of the research are expected in the summer.

The BBC is also about to appoint an equal opportunities officer exclusively concerned with disability.

I put it to Alan Yentob: "The bottom line is that you can't see things from where we are; we can't see things from where you are; so the two of us need to get together." He said: "I think that's right. I definitely think there should be more discussion. No question."

Now that's awareness.



In April 31 readers generously donated a total of £263 to Disability Now.

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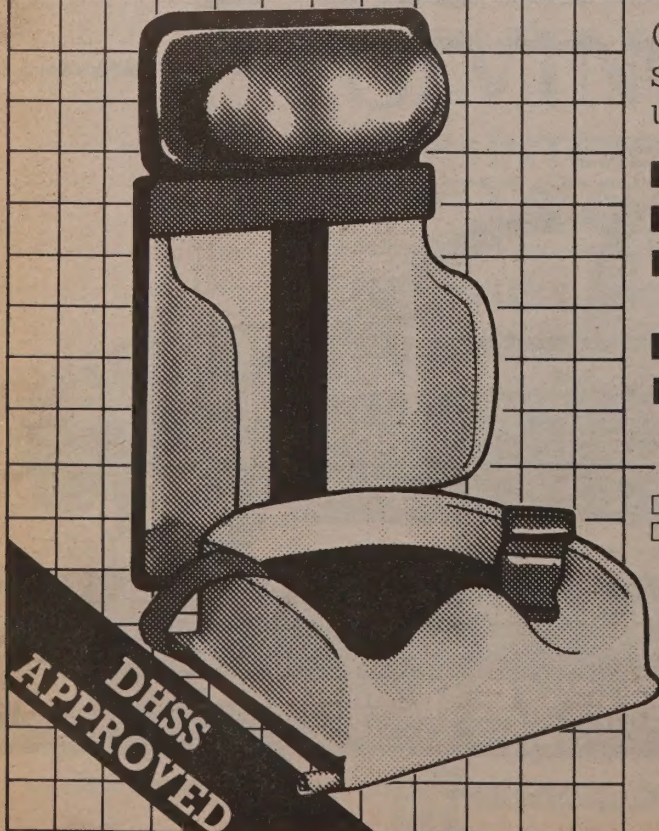
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Tina Stevens, principle information adviser at the Disabled Living Foundation, Frank Ward, an occupational therapist at The Spastics Society and Peter Watts from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, report on what's new for DN readers.

midlands naidex '88

Variations on a theme

Tina Stevens looks at new mobility aids

Most of the new mobility products at Midlands Naidex were variations on an established theme: more high performance wheelchairs, all claiming infinite adjustability and increased performance; more three-wheeled battery operated scooters. One wonders if the market can sustain so many very similar products and how the consumer can discern the best buy.

Certainly, the space available for test driving was a help. There were two spacious areas for practice, with ramps, kerbs, thresholds and doorways, all essential in deciding the chair with the best features.

It was also exciting to see some displays of wheelchair basketball, showing that with skill and mastery manual wheelchairs can be used by disabled people to perform quite spectacular feats (see also page 11).

SCOOTERS

There were three new, three-wheeled, battery powered scooters, larger kerb climbing scooters with powerful back wheel drive.



The Voyager: startling colours.

The Batricar Poweride 2 came in two versions, deluxe (£1,725) and budget (£1,570).

The wheeltrails on the Poweride are rugged and would be capable of travelling over fairly rough terrain and giving good grip to climb kerbs in town. My brief test drive revealed very smooth acceleration and deceleration. A comfortable and secure ride. Batricar Ltd, Tanlaw Park, East Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1EP, tel: (0460) 67681.

The Voyager scooter by NV Distributors has a startling bright white and blue livery, which certainly makes it stand out from the crowd. It has been designed using computer technology and can be collapsed down into fairly compact liftable units. The platform base folds for easier transportation and storage. It also has a fairly large, lockable storage area attached to the steering column.

The Voyager will climb 4in kerbs and fairly steep inclines. I did, however, find that the control mechanism for stopping and starting gave me quite a jerky ride. But at £1,299 it is considerably less expensive than the Poweride. NV Distributors Ltd, Soothouse Spring, Valley Road Industrial Estate, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 6BR, tel: (0727) 36602.

The Sportster, by J & S Services Ltd, is imported from Israel and looks more like a large adult tricycle than a scooter. Costing £1,695, it is supposedly capable of travelling for 40 miles on a full charge and towing a small trailer. It was relatively easy to drive and climbed ramps and kerbs very effectively. A small, but useful, feature: the handlebar grips can be adjusted independently. J & S Services Ltd, Unit N11, Riverside Industrial Estate, Littlehampton, Sussex, tel: (0903) 723141.

ADD-ON POWER

Another add-on power system, this time by Alfred Bekker Ltd. The power pack (£1,395) converts the Ultra Light manual wheelchair into a motorised chair. It clips onto the back of the chair and is then lowered onto the propelling wheels. The two batteries hang under the seat of the chair.

During my test drive it was impossible to activate or release the drive motors while sitting in the wheelchair. An attendant had to do this - a fairly major drawback. When activated, the chair performed reasonably well at low speeds, but at high speeds it shook rather a lot.

The power pack can be added to any manual wheelchair provided specifications are given, so that an attaching brace can be made to fit.

I still question whether this type of add-on unit will ever be adopted by the consumer. Time will tell. Alfred Bekker Ltd, The Green, Langtoft, Driffield, North Humberside, YO25 0TF, tel: (0377) 87276.

MANUALS

More and more manual wheelchairs are being introduced, some taking on the mantle of high performance and others attempting to look like high performance chairs with improved



The T & S wheelchair narrower.

styling, colour and lighter weight components.

J & A Carters Ltd have introduced the Rolls 2000 LT, a standard wheelchair weighing 35lbs. The height of its seat back is adjustable, it has tubular footplates and the option of quick release wheels. At £399, a competitive price for a stylish chair. J & A Carters Ltd, Alfred Street, Westbury, Wilts, tel: (0373) 822203.

Le Chair by Hancock & Lane



Tina's verdict on the Sportster: "Easy to drive and climbed ramps and curbs effectively."

Ltd is a fairly standard wheelchair using strong, light-weight tubing. With footplates, armrests, and quick release wheels removed, it weighs just 16lbs (£595). For many wheelchair users, a more stable chair like this is preferable to the fine tuning of the high performance chairs. Hancock & Lane Ltd, Frome Manor, Bishops Frome, Worcester, tel: (08853) 429.

The Menox 1 and Menox 10 from Finland have joined the Vessa range. Both are high performance chairs with many adjustable features for maximum manoeuvrability.

The Menox 1 has a semi-rigid frame, adjustable one-piece leg

support and weighs about 14kgs. Prices from £800 to £1,300.

The Menox 10 is a slightly lighter chair, 12.5kgs, with a conventional cross bracing folding system. £800 to £1,300. Both chairs look capable for competing well in the active users' market. Vessa Ltd, Paper Mill Lane, Alton, Hants GU34 2PY, tel: (0420) 83294.

T & S Motion and Sport Ltd is run by two disabled people, Terry Willett and Stuart Sledge. They have brought some more American high performance chairs into the UK. The Rigid Edge rigid-framed wheelchair can be fully customised. Weighing just 23lbs, it costs

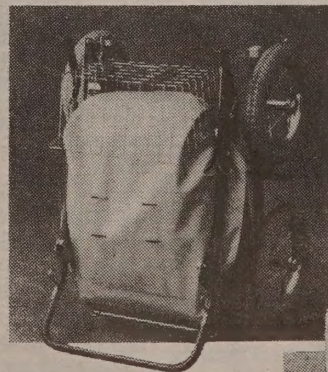
£895. The Custom Lite (£950) is a slightly heavier chair with a cross bracing folding mechanism and the Kids range is very brightly coloured (from £795). All have frames with life-long guarantees which perhaps gives an indication of strength and durability.

T & S has also produced a new wheelchair narrower than attaches to either side of the chair and narrows the overall width by about an inch or so, which might make all the difference to access. It is a lever operated unit which takes a bit of getting used to; in effect the user is levering the whole of his body

continued on page 8

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midlands naidex '88 midlands naidex '88 midl

continued from page 7
weight. At £99, an expensive gadget. *T & S Motion and Sport*, Potter Lane, Wellow, Nr Newark, Notts, tel: (0623) 835362).

The Poirier range of wheelchairs from France is now being distributed by Electric Leisure Vehicles. The high performance chair, Globe Roller, has a unique bracing and folding system and many high performance features, £1,009.

SPECIALS

Two other unique chairs in the Poirier range are the one-armed

lever-propelled Arnas chair, which is so useful for the hemiplegic user, (£670), and the Positelic range which includes the PE 50 (£3,477), a fully adjustable electric chair with backrest recline, independent foot and legrest elevation and full tilting mechanism for the whole seat unit. It is also equipped for powered mobility and will climb a 2-3in kerb.

This is a luxury chair for the severely disabled user who needs the support and special facilities. *Electric Leisure Vehicles*, 17 St Georges Industrial Estate, Frimley Road, Camberley, Surrey, tel: (0276) 20225.

A new company, Lanfold Healthcare Ltd, has introduced a new wheelchair system.

The Lanfold 1030 is a steel-framed wheelchair whose seat height can be adjusted about 5in by using a winding mechanism.

It also has a unique sideways transfer motion for getting in and out of a car. The conventional car seat is replaced by a Lanfold chassis. You line up the wheelchair and car chassis cradle and then pull across and into the car. If this system is successful, it will greatly improve wheelchair/car mobility. Wheelchair £830, car cradle £299.

Lanfold also has a very interesting rail system for use at a bench worktop or in the kitchen. It is fixed to the floor and has a small wheelchair platform on top of it. You sit on the platform and pull yourself swiftly and easily up and down the length of the workbench. A new idea which has great potential. £10 per foot. *Lanfold Healthcare Ltd, Unit 18 Vanguard Way, Vanguard Industrial Estate, Shoeburyness, Essex SS3 9QY*, tel: (0702) 297388.



Tina Stevens tries out the Poirier PE50's backward tilting mechanism.

FOR CHILDREN

Everaids (Rena) is a co-operative venture between parents of disabled children in the UK and

Holland. Two new products for children were on show. The Eversit is a reclining shell seat in 6 different sizes, which can be used in the car, on a static base or on a wheeled base. With all options fitted it costs £575, but until July there is an offer of £450.

There is also a mobile swimming aid called The Dolphin, electrically powered, for children up to 5 stone. The child lies on top of the Dolphin with legs lying back in the water and operates the enclosed propeller by pressing on two flipper switches. The Dolphin really is delightful and could be used for fun in the pool or for hydrotherapy. £999, until July.

Also from Everaids comes the Comfit, a modern-looking mobile chair for the home or office. It has a comfortable, supportive bucket shape with adjustable headrest and footrests, can recline, but is propelled by the carer. £920. *Everaids, 38 Clifton Road, Cambridge CB1 4ZT*, tel: (0223) 243336.



The Lanfold 1030 has a seat which can be raised 5 inches.

Sight 88: a great success

Peter Watts reports on microtech developments

Sight 88 was billed as the first national exhibition of high-tech products for people with visual impairment and was incorporated into Naidex with considerable success.

Several new, sophisticated, electronic devices were on show that were obviously directed towards employment where funding by the Manpower Services Commission becomes an affordable way to buy.

The very first model of the Optacon II in the UK was on the Sensory Systems stand. This is the first major upgrade in 17 years to the tactile reading device that is used worldwide. Besides major changes in the appearance, the price has fallen to £3,000 and the Optacon II can be connected directly to a personal computer. *Sensory Systems Ltd, Unit 10, Cameron House, 12 Castlehaven Road, London NW1*. Tel: 01-485 4485.

Connecting special equipment to a standard microcomputer has certain attractions, and completely self-contained, portable, personal computers for braille users are now a reality.

The Libra with a tactile display, Perkins style braille keyboard and twin disks was being shown by Libra (RW) Ltd. It costs £5,000 and can run both

CP/M and MSDOS operating systems, thus enabling an unsighted operator to use a large number of commercial software packages, though not those using graphics. *Libra (RW) Ltd, Unit 16, Erith Business Centre, High Street, Erith, Kent DA8 1RT*. Tel: (0322) 332725.

The Eureka A4 is also CP/M compatible but uses synthesised speech for output.

This remarkable piece of equipment from Techno-Vision Systems is only £1,468 and comes with many built-in programs and features to provide electronic secretarial assistance. There is a note taker, data base, word-processor, diary, calendar, scientific calculator, thermometer (!), Basic program interpreter and many more features, including the facility to connect direct to the telephone system (awaiting British Telecom approval) for data transfer or just to use the auto dialling facility from the built-in telephone directory. *Techno-Vision Systems Ltd, 4 Hazelwood Road, Northampton*. Tel: (0604) 239363.

High quality synthesised speech also featured in new communication aids. Quest Educational Designs (QED) was showing the Zygo Parrot and DAVE which will both record up



The DAVE communication aid from QED

to 16 words or short phrases spoken by a chosen individual.

On DAVE, the selected item of speech is replayed by using a switch controlled scanner, and each item is fixed at 2 seconds long. The tabletop version costs £425; a wheelchair version £475.

The hand sized Parrot (£385) uses a small 16 key pad to select a phrase, but permits a mixture of short and long phrases within the overall time limit of 32 seconds.

Whilst vast sums of money can be spent on equipment to assist an individual with severe motor impairment, the user interface (often a switch) still seems

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Advice and information came over strongest

Frank Ward was disappointed by the shortage of new equipment

often seems at Naidex exhibitors that the number of stands per square metre is considered more important than the convenience of the people attending. The National Exhibition Centre, however, had a feeling of space which perhaps made it appear less busy than in previous years, though this did not seem to be the case.

Particularly busy were the information and advice services. More organisations are recognising the value of Naidex for reaching professionals, people with disabilities and their carers enablers directly. The Access Committee for Birmingham was telling people about its work locally, and previous exhibitors including The Spastics Society

and RADAR were busy.

There was little new household equipment in evidence at this Naidex and no high profile product launches. But a few items attracted attention.

The Helping Hand Company appears to be branching out. Their new Octopus w.c. stand looks interesting, with a stable, easy to fix, versatile rail. At £109 it should be a popular alternative to other w.c. rail systems. Its folding arms give security, but swing back for sideways transfer if necessary. *The Helping Hand Company (Ledbury Ltd), St Catherine Street, Gloucester.*

Minivator were showing two new major changes to existing products. One, a seat within their existing vertical wheelchair lift, means that people who may eventually need a wheelchair, or households with more than one person who is disabled, may be more easily catered for. The other was a seat on their stairlift which swivels to the right and left, enabling easier access at the top and bottom of the staircase. *Minivator Sales Ltd, Fens Pool Avenue, Brierley Hill, W Midlands DY5 1QA.*

Albert Marston & Co have gradually extended their range of hardware for people with disabilities. New this year was their Reliable Shower Seat which, they say, will provide a secure comfortable seat but will not get in the way of others using the bathroom. It looks as if transfer onto the seat, whether over the bath or a shower area, will be relatively easy. Some shower seats in the past have been criticised for

being insecure, but the Reliable claims to hold 57 stones! Price £65. *Albert Marston & Co Ltd, Wellington Works, Planetary Road, Willenball, W Midlands.*

Homecraft also has a new slant on shower seats. Their Alton Bathboard is a familiar metal board with holes in so that it can be used under a shower. The interesting new part is the fixing mechanism, which holds the board firmly in place during transfer and is easy to adjust. Price £22.79. Homecraft's Sherwood Shower (and Kitchen) Stools are now available with backrests (£19.90) or back and armrests (£25.90), which should make them easier to rise from. Their One-Handed Tray, which comes with a non-slip mat, is now made of light plastic and may be easier to carry than the old metal version. Price £17. *Homecraft Supplies, 27 Trinity Road, London SW17 7SE.*

A new range of Dynamic chairs, available from Stannah Homecare and Laurie Roberts of Knutsford, attracted a great deal of attention. They appear to be quite expensive at around £300 to £400 for the basic chair, but there are chairs in the range which provide air circulation through porous coverings to prevent pressure sores.

They were of modern design and might suit people who don't like the traditional high-seat chair. They certainly seemed comfortable. *Stannah Homecare, Watt Close, East Portway, Andover SP10 3BR. Laurie Roberts, 19 Woodside, Knutsford WA6 8BX.*



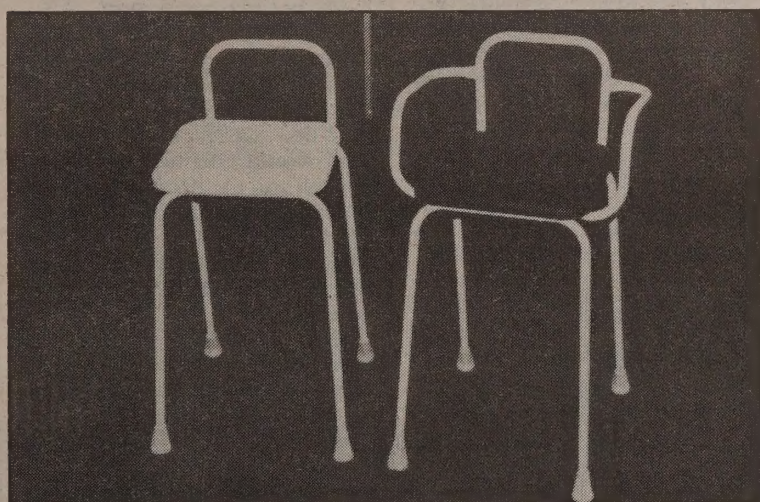
Swivelling stairlift seat.

relatively crude and inflexible. Now QED has added two further switches to their extensive range. The Wolfson Touch Switch (£39) is an electronic switch that needs no pressure to operate, whilst the Adjustable Pressure Switch (£50) uses air pressure and can accept the adweight of a limb without operating but then triggers with a little extra pressure. *Quest Educational Designs Ltd, 1 Prince Alfred Street, Gosport, Hants PO12 1QH. Tel: (0705) 11179.*

MyVoice from Elfin Systems uses a similar technique for recording natural speech, but can store up to 135 seconds of material in 40 blocks. A block can be a maximum of 8 seconds long, so



Scanning keyboard.



Homecraft's Sherwood Stools now come with back and arm rests.

a memory expansion option to double the total recordable time is available.

The basic MyVoice costs £950, but with extra options it can now be controlled by a microcomputer, the BeebControl scanning keyboard, or the Concept Keyboard as well as its own keypad. The first option costs an extra £250, then £100 each.

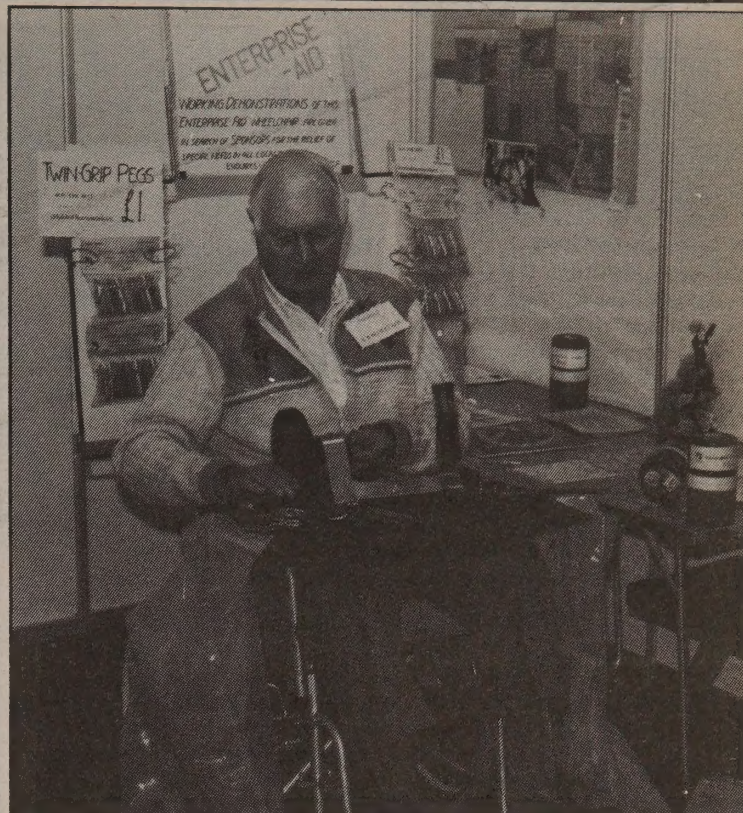
The part of the Concept Keyboard that selects a particular phrase can be tailored to suit individual users, and obviously a suitable overlay can be made. Similarly, overlays can be made for the BeebControl scanning keyboard if this is used to control MyVoice.

Elfin was also showing a new basic communication scanner that could also become a modular, low cost, environmental controller. Multi-Scan (£150) can have up to 12 positions with a choice of four scanning modes to suit a variety of different users. Used by itself, each position can represent a communication con-

cept, or with added control modules (extra £100 plus £55 mains socket) an environmental controller can be implemented. Special interfaces for TV channel control (also about £55) etc, are also available. *Elfin Systems Ltd, Llanthony Road Trading Estate, Gloucester GL1 1SB. Tel: (0452) 411533.*

Calderglenn Computers were demonstrating a set of computer programs for the administration of residential homes which runs on the BBC range of microcomputers or on IBM PC compatibles.

This extremely comprehensive package was developed by a proprietor of two residential homes and is straightforward to operate by staff who have had little computer experience. These two points, plus the company's telephone support and the price of £300, make it very good value. *Calderglenn Computers Ltd, 279 Keighley Road, Colne, Lancs BB8 7HD. Tel: (0282) 866481.*



Inventor Francis Holton, of the Guild of Disabled Homeworkers, was at Naidex demonstrating his Enterprise Aid Wheelchair. This prototype is equipped with tools which enable disabled people to make small items, such as pegs, in their wheelchairs. It also has a frame attached behind the chair to display the goods on. Mr Holton is trying to find sponsorship to build more of the chairs.



Disability Now's advertising manager Jonathan Wine (left) and champion swimmer Martin Mansell on the Naidex stand.

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Living independently

"We are concerned that we should not end up as a burden on others"

says Bill Hargreaves

"You are old Father William the young man said..." Since childhood those words have remained in my memory. I never dreamed in those early days that they would one day apply to me.

Yes, I am growing older and whilst still nimbly athetoid there are undoubtedly parts of my life which are continually changing due to increasing years.

First, mental attitude. Adapting your views as you get older is, I think, essential, for if you don't, you can quite easily go into decline.

The other day my cousin, who is considerably older than I am, said, "Old age has its compensations, for gradually one does not wish to do what one used to want to do".

How very true. I used to think nothing of travelling to Cardiff and back in half a day to give an hour's talk, or undertaking a three-week tour of Japan, or journeying round Canada.

Today, I look back with fond memories of all those things and whilst I still like to give the occasional talk or make the occasional visit I do not feel any compulsion to do so.

Instead, I have taken up other interests and am doing other things, such as taking a walk every day, playing a game or two of scrabble, visiting friends, having friends visit us. In other words, living life at a much more leisurely pace. But this in itself brings pleasure, for I have time to do things that I could not do when I was working.

There are also the physical changes of ageing. For me, the gradual spread of arthritis is the greatest enemy. No longer can I move so freely; even lying in bed is painful when you have arthritis in the neck as well as the back.

Growing old - together?

Sara Murray



Bill and Mary Hargreaves in their garden in Wembley.

Anti-inflammatory tablets work for a while and then I find I have to stop them because they upset my stomach.

I find, too, that I trip and fall more often and this is perhaps my greatest fear - that I should fall and injure myself and then become a problem to others.

I just wish many doctors would understand that if one suffers from cerebral palsy then any other infirmity imposed on one's body is going to be increasingly devastating and that one's symptoms are inevitably exaggerated.

However, there is no reason why getting on in years should dramatically affect one's lifestyle, so long as one adapts to one's limitations. It is important to take each day as it comes.

I think too, that we should shoulder some of the responsibilities for our future. Decisions have to be made; everything will not always stay the same.

We have made our wills and I have learned that even though we have been married for 43 years, there are things that Mary and I have done as individuals which the other knows nothing about. For example, I have no idea how to make a chocolate cake. Mary, until I showed her recently, did not know how to operate the video recorder or adjust the central heating.

We have also worked out who

to turn to in times of difficulty.

We are both concerned that we should not end up as a burden on others and so together we are touring round the country seeking a suitable retirement apartment or flat in which we may live in dignity and freedom. It will have to be ground floor: when I walk about there's a lot of thumping.

We would need neighbours, or someone who could give us occasional help with little things like changing a light bulb; it is difficult for me to bend or stretch these days.

I've also been looking at alarm systems for the front door and a phone with an emergency button.

In all this, we have both found that being positive is essential.

Death, as far as I am concerned, holds no terrors. It is merely the beginning of a new life. Mary and I are both Christians and it would be pointless being so if we remained scared of the hereafter.

Nor am I afraid of growing older. I have found that each decade brings its own happiness. In our case, now, it is the happiness of being with our grandchildren when they come to stay and watching them grow up; of having so many friends, both in this country and overseas, without whom life would not be the rich experience we still find it.

Infirmity, bereavement, sudden disability are the big unthinkables. Plan ahead and you are more likely to end up where you want to be

Kenneth Ball



Geraldine Moody after winning the Cheshire homes general knowledge competition.

"I wish I had known...I think I could have made arrangements"

Geraldine Moody talks to Mary Wilkinson

Geraldine Moody is 60 and lives in a Leonard Cheshire Foundation home in Sussex.

Ten years ago she was a housewife and businesswoman, running a radio and TV spare parts business in Sevenoaks, Kent, with her husband, gardening enthusiastically and singing in two choirs.

Then, out of the blue, her body began to go wrong.

She lost pressure in her hands. "It took me a whole evening to type two envelopes," she says. "It was maddening."

When she tried to drink, the cup would end up beyond her mouth and the drink would spill.

Her GP referred her to the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases in London. But extensive tests could discover nothing wrong.

Her condition deteriorated until Stanley Moody could no longer cope on his own and had to hire a nurse. Then the money ran out. "We didn't know who to turn to, or that we could have got help from social services."

Eventually she went into Sevenoaks Hospital. She was there for 5 months, 4 of them waiting for a residential place.

She says there were no places in Kent and she was lucky to get the one vacancy at the Leonard Cheshire home in February, 1984. (The home now has 34 residents with a waiting list of 15

women and 10 men).

"I had heard of Leonard Cheshire homes but knew nothing of them," says Geraldine. "But when I visited, I had a very favourable impression. It was bright and clean and everybody was friendly."

She came, using a walking frame. Talking to people tired her and she still finds it hard sometimes to remember a word. Officially she has cerebral atrophy.

"I was relieved in a way to go here. It meant that I would be looked after," she says. "But it was a terrible shock. You've been alright for so many years and suddenly this happens. It's hard to take in. I wondered what I had done to deserve it."

She and her husband never had any counselling.

"We didn't think I would be here that long. My husband never said much about it. We haven't really talked it over."

Stanley Moody now lives in a flat on the sea front at Hastings, which has a lift and is near the shops. His sister has taught him how to cook, wash and iron - "she's been wonderful" - and he pays someone to clean. With a weak heart, he has had to slow down and no longer drives a car. But he comes to stay at the home from time to time and is in constant touch over the phone.

"Several times he's said he's very lonely," says Geraldine. "But he had the dog and that helped. Now the dog has died, I don't know."

Geraldine now needs a lot of personal care. She is in a wheelchair, but has physiotherapy. A speech therapist helped her regain her voice when she lost it.

She fills her time crocheting, doing cane work - currently a baby's basket - and rug making.

She gets on with the staff and residents, but likes most of all to keep to herself in her pink-walled room, surrounded by books, plants and jigsaw puzzles.

However, as elected treasurer of the Residents' Welfare Committee, she wields some influence in the centre. "We pass on complaints to the management - and, yes, they are put right."

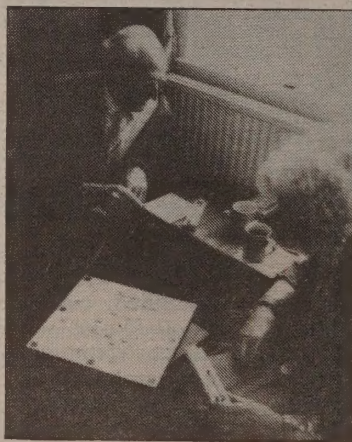
Last autumn she was on the winning team in an inter-Cheshire home general knowledge contest.

Sometimes Geraldine Moody feels her condition is improving: an arm "wakes up" more quickly in the morning than it used to, or the scalp starts itching under her smartly cut hair.

She knows that most people don't leave the home until they die, but she has not given up hope that one day she and Stanley will share the flat in Hastings.

"I only wish that I had known I might be so disabled," she says. "I think I could have made arrangements."

To live at the home costs £263.50 a week (going up to £270). She may be right.



Time to play scrabble.

Planning ahead...

The first step should be your local authority's social services department's Section for the Elderly. They provide meals-on-wheels and home helps and some also run sheltered housing and residential care homes. The address will be in Yellow Pages or your local phone directory. **Counsel and Care for the Elderly**, Twyman House, 16 Bonny Street, London NW1 9LR, tel: 01-485 1566, direct people into the right sort of residential care or help them find nursing at home. They run a counselling service, give advice on help with fees and vet all private and voluntary homes in Greater London. **The Elderly Accommodation Council**, 1 Durward House, 31

Kensington Court, London W8 5BH, tel: 01-937 8709, provides detailed information about sheltered housing, residential care and nursing homes in the private, voluntary and charity sectors.

The Registered Nursing Homes Association, Calthorpe House, Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 8QY, tel: 021-454 2511, has a complete list of all nursing homes in the UK. The list costs £25 but they will photocopy pages covering particular areas if you send an SAE.

Carematch, 286 Camden Road, London N7 0BJ, tel: 01-609 9966, matches the care needs of physically disabled people against 326 homes in England and Wales.

Caresearch, 1 Thorpe Close, Portobello Green, London W10 5XL, tel: 01-960 5666, offers the same ser-

vice for people with mental handicaps and has around 750 residential units on its data base.

The Leonard Cheshire Foundation, 26/29 Maunsell Street, London SW1P 2QN, tel: 01-828 1822, runs 79 residential homes. Their upper age limit for admissions is 60, so bear this in mind when you are planning ahead. Other charities such as the RNIB and RNID run residential homes you may be able to get a place.

Help the Aged, St James Walk, London EC1R 0BE, tel: 01-253 0253, has just published a free booklet about coping with bereavement. Send an SAE at least 9in by 6 1/2in to their Information Desk. The Community Alarms Department gives free advice on home alarms and has information on what different local authorities provide.



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Let 'em roll!

Young people who learn to handle their wheelchairs become mobile, active and independent.

Karen Wingate meets pioneer Owen McGhee and talks to some of his Newham Rollers



John Paul Grey demonstrates a back-wheel balance.

One of the Rollers, Adedoyin "Adie" Adepitan, 14, told me how he used to be pushed about in a Sainsbury's shopping trolley by able-bodied friends from the mainstream school he attends. Because he could walk a bit he was not given a wheelchair and this meant he could not keep up with them.

Adie got his first wheelchair - a sports one - when he joined the Newham Rollers last summer. He uses it mainly for basketball.

"My friends play in the football team after school, but I couldn't be in it because I couldn't run about," says Adie. "Now when the others play football I play basketball."

For children to be really mobile and independent not any

back wheel is too small and too far back and the axle position cannot be adjusted.

Tina Stevens of the Disabled Living Foundation agrees that the NHS chairs are not suitable for active children. "Most kids would find it difficult to do a wheelie in them," she said.

Jaspel Dhani, 19, who was disabled by polio, describes his first experiences with an NHS wheelchair: "I went outside in the street and it was like a tank - really, really heavy. I couldn't move about in it at all."

"You've got to have a chair that allows you a lot more freedom and movement, that will let you do what you are capable of doing and not restrict you."

The Disablement Services Authority, which has taken over wheelchair services from the DHSS, is now looking at new designs for a young person's wheelchair, following critical comments on the current provision by Professor Ian McColl in his 1986 report.

Professor McColl says he would like to see high performance chairs available from the DSA. "What's required is high performance chairs for high performance people. Young people have to be active - they're not little old grannies."

High performance wheelchairs for children are readily available - but you have to pay a high price. The cheapest cost around £500 and they can reach £1,500 or higher.*

Each member of the Rollers has their own high-performance wheelchair, paid for by local fundraising events. Owen McGhee teaches them how to get the most from their wheelchairs and in this he thinks he is unique.

Most children, whether they are born disabled or become disabled, are never really taught how to use a wheelchair. "Many therapists do not even know how to use one themselves, let alone teach others how to," says Owen McGhee.

The basic skill he teaches is

the back-wheel balance, or "wheelie", because once this is mastered, getting about independently on the streets is possible. He gets them to practise until they feel entirely confident about back-wheel balancing anywhere. "They will usually fall over several times before they get the hang of it but that's all part of the process of learning independence - learning how to get back in and try again," he said. Another important lesson is not to be afraid to ask for help if they need it.

He admits that not all disabled children will be able to achieve the skill, but more people can learn to do it than think they can. The important thing to have is arm and hand control. Weakness is not necessarily a problem, as the wheelchair can be adjusted to compensate.

Once the back-wheel balance has been mastered Owen McGhee goes on to teach other skills, such as going up and down ramps, kerbs and stairs. "You can go up most stairs provided there is a good bannister and you can go down quite a lot of them."

He also encourages the Rollers to take risks. Like all young people that is the only way they will learn, he says.

From the age of 7 or 8 they should start to learn to cross the road, and should be able to move about a town by the time they are 12. "It is a risk but it's the same risk as a mother teaching a child to ride a bike or a driving instructor teaching someone to drive."

Owen McGhee stresses the importance of getting parents on his side. "They will worry about the risks their children are taking if they are not involved."

He tells the parents of a teenager who has joined the Rollers that their child is going to be an athlete. It comes as a shock to many of them, who have low expectations of their children and are depressed about what they will achieve. He finds the parents gradually trust him - and their child - more and more as they see the positive results being achieved.

Michelle Daley, 16, who has brittle bones, was not allowed to take part in any sports or even to

use a wheelchair. Owen persuaded her consultant to give permission for her to join the Rollers. She had 37 broken bones before she joined; she has had none since. In fact, the last time she visited her consultant he was impressed with her fitness.

"We have to somehow break through this attitude that disabled children are made of glass," he says. "Once they experience getting up again after falling over it helps build their



Owen McGhee with 3 Rollers.

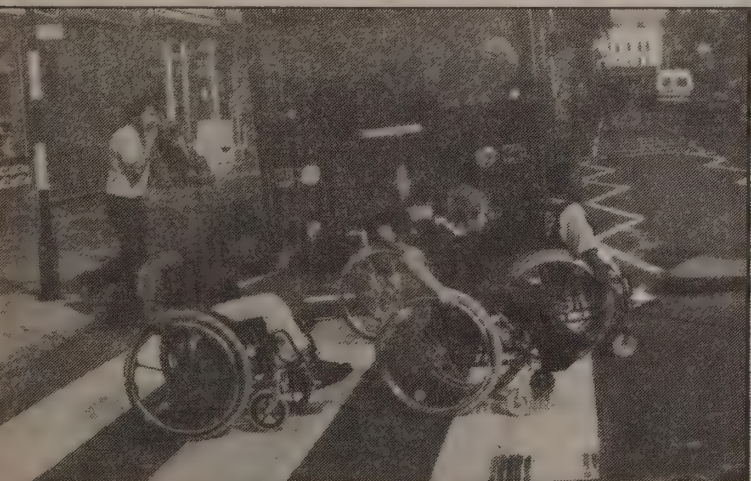
confidence - and it is confidence as well as skills that I want to help them build."

Certainly the Rollers are full of confidence. They said Owen McGhee pushes them to achieve and that's good.

"I've seen people in wheelchairs who just sit there and they haven't done anything with their lives," said Saleem Rauf, 11. "I don't want to be like that!"

Wheelchair manufacturers Car- ters, who make the Activ wheel- chair which the Rollers are shown using above, have produced a video called Freewheel- ing, which is all about Newham Rollers and mobility for physi- cally disabled children. It is available for £28.75 (inc VAT) from Line-Up, (Promotion and Sales), Freshford, Bath BA3 6BX.

***Special offer** Rempoy has just brought out a new high-performance, rigid-frame wheelchair, the Roller, designed with the help of Owen McGhee. The first 60 will be sold for £200, then the price goes up to £240. They have 24" wheels and 12", 14", 15" or 16" wide seats. Rempoy, 11 Nunnery Drive, Sheffield. Tel: (0742) 754724.



Owen McGhee accompanies (from left) Mangat Ram, Jackie Johnson, John Paul Grey and Michelle Daley as they practise getting about on the streets of Newham in their wheelchairs.

can only get about on two feet with great difficulty. For those who can manage indoors, but find the hazards of slippery and uneven streets and kerbs outdoors impossible, a wheelchair can give them back confidence - if they know how to use it. Likewise, disabled children who move too slowly to take part in sports can suddenly find the agility and speed they long for with a sports wheelchair.

wheelchair will do.

One of the biggest problems for disabled children is that the standard NHS children's wheelchair is "entirely impossible to use in the way it should be used," says Owen McGhee.

Although they are strong and stable, they are heavy and not designed to allow the individual adjustments necessary to "back-wheel balance" safely - a skill crucial for climbing kerbs. The

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DANCE

Light Cycle 5

Common Ground Dance Theatre's performance of *Light Cycle 5* (The Old Bull Arts Centre, High Barnet, 28 April) successfully brought together the individual skills of dancers, musicians and actors, often crossing the boundaries of each other's art forms.

The company includes a profoundly deaf dancer (Golda Dahan) and actor (Tony Baynton), and the extensive training and experience of all the cast showed in the performance.

Using dance, drama, poetry,

political statement about deafness, but the awareness of the presence or absence of sound does add a thought-provoking extra dimension.

The fast-moving programme, with the performers changing roles, was entertaining on many levels, witty and interestingly choreographed.

The live music was composed and performed by Christopher De Graal and Rebecca Lublinski, who also directed the drama. There were fragments of poems ranging from Sylvia Plath to Iseult De Graal and Tony Newton, members of the group.

I understand the company found the problems of integrating hearing and non-hearing performers a challenge, but the energy and exuberance of the performances indicated that they found the experience a rewarding one. It was a shame, therefore, that the artists were referred to in the programme as

John Ross



Golda Dahan (left) and Iseult de Graal in *Light Cycle 5*.

music and sign language, *Light Cycle 5* "explores the changing patterns of relationships to each other and to ourselves as we grow through life", the programme notes inform us. The sign language was beautifully expressive and well integrated.

The show avoids becoming a

deaf or hearing. It would have been true integration if they could have been enjoyed by the audience on their merits alone.

Celeste Dandeker

Light Cycle 5 is at the Easterhouse Festival, Glasgow on 9 July.

BOOKS

Beauty Secrets - Women and the Politics of Appearance

by Wendy Chapkis
(Women's Press, £5.95)

This is a feminist book about personal appearance and the effect it has on the lives of women.

The 5 sections cover how the feminist movement has failed to disperse the stereotype ideal of beauty; the power of advertising and how western ideals are universal, even in poor and underdeveloped countries where they cannot be achieved; the theory of using dress and appearance to gain success in a male dominated culture; and the fight for equality in sexuality. Finally, the author hopes that one day women will be recognised and respected for their personality and ability, freeing their appearance to be a pleasure, not a necessity.

The book largely concentrates on the views of people with appearance problems - being overweight for example - and on minority groups, including elderly and disabled people.

Two interviews with disabled women reveal experiences common to many others.

One woman who has dystrophic dwarfism explains how she came to terms with the way she looks. She feels she missed out on adolescence because she was unable to wear teenage fashions. Also, because she had difficulty accepting herself, she believed she could only be accepted by other disabled people. She had to have professional

help to accept the way she looked.

The need to be accepted by able-bodied people is strongly felt by most disabled people and using fashion can be a powerful means of saying we are the same and we do fit in.

In the second interview, a disabled woman discusses the problems of people not accepting her as a sexual person, even though she is seen as being attractive.

What comes over is that men judge women by appearance to a greater extent than women do men. So it is easier for a disabled man to find a partner than a disabled woman. I think that on the whole both sexes are equally conscious of their partners' appearance and although we sometimes don't like to admit it, we all look for the ideal.

I am not a feminist so I found *Beauty Secrets* quite heavy reading. However, the book raises some interesting issues and arguments. Parallels can be drawn throughout the book between issues of beauty and the problems disabled people face in getting society to accept them and their appearance.

Ann Grange

The fear that we might be ugly and therefore inadequate human beings haunts us all. But the particular emphasis society places on women's looks as a measure of their worth produces a psychological pressure to conform to an ideal that can devastate their self-confidence and esteem.

Our idea of the perfect complexion, the ideal bust, waist and hip sizes varies over the years. Fashions may change, but the basic principle deep-rooted in western society does not: that the body beautiful is a woman's responsibility and that she is valued according to how well

she manages to conform to the ideal.

This western ideal, argues Wendy Chapkis, is increasingly a global one. The dominant view of beauty is that it is North American, blue-eyed, blonde haired, slim, adolescent, wealthy and able-bodied. It is fostered by multinational advertising agencies, television and publishing media and the global cosmetics industry, who together trade on women's fears for billion-dollar profits.

Wendy Chapkis is a Californian sociology professor. She knits together painful personal testimonies from women who fall outside this ideal with eloquent analysis to show that if you are disabled, or have black skin, or are guilty of being fat, spotty or middle aged, you are punished with feelings of guilt and inadequacy.

The problem, she says, is that women are looking into a mirror that reflects back their biological sex, socially determined gender and their sexuality in a way that is confusing and distorted, but they are blaming themselves instead of the mirror.

In an economically, sexually and racially divided society, clothing and appearance are meant to intimidate, she argues: they provide an evaluation of power.

She ends with examples of how women are fighting back by redefining what it means to be "beautiful" and suggests how support groups can help.

The book draws together a lot of ideas that are probably half-felt by many of us, and shepherds them into a well-argued and coherent whole. This should provide a good, positive answer to anyone who feels angry with the way society has devalued them, purely on the basis of their physical appearance. That goes for women and men.

Julian Marshall

Fasten your seat belts.

You're coming for a drive in a truly amazing little car. It's a 1.1 litre Ford Fiesta with a new kind of automatic gearbox, one that's designed especially for small cars.

In the first place, it feels as nippy as a manual.

In the second place, you'll be amazed by its fuel economy.*

And, in the third place, it's great fun.

Let's suppose you're just moving off. All the controls will seem quite familiar. The gear lever has five positions: park, reverse, neutral, drive and low. Slot it into drive, squeeze the accelerator, you're away. And here's where you get your first surprise. This little car is quick off the mark.

That's because the gearbox is much simpler than a conventional automatic. So it doesn't use up as much engine power.

In tests, it's done 0-60 mph within a second and a half of the five speed manual, and reached 87 mph.†

But the best is still to come. As you accelerate, you expect to feel it change gear.

But you don't.

You see, the gearbox doesn't have the usual gears. Instead, it continuously adjusts itself so that you're always in the most efficient ratio for the prevailing conditions.

People say it feels like a plane taking off. The car smoothly gathers speed with no hiccups along the way, and hardly any change in engine note.

Once you've reached your desired speed, you ease off on the accelerator and something else quite delightful

happens. The car seems to relax into a lovely quiet cruise.

It's a bit like having a sixth gear, which in effect it has. The engine slows right down but you maintain your speed. Wonderful for motorways.

FIESTA'S MAGIC BOX

That also explains why this Fiesta is so economical. Since it always chooses the highest possible gear ratio for the

job, it uses a lot less petrol than a conventional automatic. In Government fuel tests it achieved 58.9 mpg at 56 mph.*

We could go on for ever about this little car; how easy it is to drive in town, what fun it is on winding roads. But, better by far, why not try it for yourself.

The Fiesta Automatic is available in L or Ghia trim.

And most Ford dealers should be able to arrange a demo.

One last word, don't be put off if it feels a little odd at first. It'll only take you a couple of miles to get used to it. Once you have, we bet you'll agree, it's magic.

If you would like full details of the Fiesta CTX, the Ford Motability Scheme and a copy of our brochure "Ford and the

Disabled Motorist" then please fill in the "Freepost" coupon below or contact Ford Personal Import Export Ltd, Motability Department DN, 8 Balderton Street, London W1Y 2BN. Tel: 01-493 4070.



THE FIESTA CTX AUTOMATIC

*Ford computed figs. †Achieved in govt. fuel economy tests - mpg (litres per 100 km), constant 56 mph (90 km/h) 58.9 (4.8), constant 75 mph (120 km/h) 40.9 (6.9). Urban driving 39.2 (7.2).

Freeport Ford, London W1E 8EZ.

Please send me full details of the Fiesta CTX, the Ford Motability Scheme and the Ford Cars brochure.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____



DN 6/88

THEATRE

Blood, Sweat and Fears

Ben, Curtis and Ashely all work for the obnoxious Hayse in the Star Trek cafe, where fast food is served with a smile and "have a cosmic day".

Marie Oshodi's new play *Blood, Sweat and Fears*, at Battersea Arts Centre last month, gives a powerful insight into sickle cell anaemia, a disease which affects about 10 per cent of Britain's black population. The setting of a fast food diner creates an appropriate metaphor for a society which pays superficial attention to people with disabilities.

The first half of the play only hints at disability but the second half brings the issue to the fore when Ben is faced with the dilemma of "how can I really be disabled if I haven't got a hearing aid, a white stick or a wheelchair?"

Steven Woodcock as Ben gives a poignant portrayal of the agonising tension which exists for anyone with an invisible disability. He is faced with the effort of constantly explaining a disease not constant in itself: it can have periods of remission when the person who has the disease appears perfectly healthy.

The emotions are polarized. On the one hand Ben wants to reveal his disability, thus eliminating the need to make excuses and alleviating his guilt at the thought of "stealing" disabled people's privileges - on the other hand he fears exposing



Steven Woodcock as Ben (right) in a dilemma, with Ashely (Yvonne French) and Hayse (Nicholas Bell).

himself to stigma.

This belief that once stamped "disabled" he will be labelled for life, leads him to adopt the extreme position of a head-in-the-sand attitude. By taking no precautions and actually hindering his health, he "proves" he has no sickle cell.

The controversial and topical issue of abortion is touched on. Questions are thrown out rather than answers given and I went away unsure if this was a "safe" option or deliberate challenge.

The disease is genetic and if two partners are carriers they run a 1 in 4 chance of having children with sickle cells.

Ashely, Ben's girlfriend, has a blood test to see if her children would be affected and is relieved to find she is "normal"; the implication being that she won't

now have to abort.

As the sexist, macho stereotype, Curtis' reaction to his girlfriend's pregnancy is consistent with his character: "Responsibilities. Didn't know I had any".

The irrepressible Curtis, with his crass comments, acts the role of a Shakespearean fool, a foil for Ben's monologues which graphically, and at times poetically, describe the attack of sickle cell anaemia.

Though the subject matter is weighty, the piece itself is pacy, with punchy lines and brimming with humour.

Marie Oshodi is capable of handling a whole spectrum of emotions in her writing, from boisterous cafe scenes to the touching, quiet scene between Ashely and Tessa, Ben's mother.

Winsome Pinnock's economic

portrayal of Tessa deserves a mention - I totally believed in her from the moment she opened her mouth.

Though the first half dragged slightly at times and could have been tightened by cutting the script, the audience were engrossed and, especially in the hospital and surgery scenes, were drawn into the action to be bombarded with medical terms.

Blood, Sweat and Fears is a great play, containing some wonderfully memorable one-liners, from a talented writer whose work deserves to grace many a stage.

Ellen Wilkie

Blood, Sweat and Fears will be at the Pegasus Theatre, Oxford on 7 June and the Green Room, Manchester 9-10 June.



TV

Pioneering time of the signs

Sunday 24 April was a good day, because two important series began, each in its own way revolutionary. Since both have 10 programmes, there's plenty of time for you to catch them.

British Sign Language: A Beginner's Course (BBC1, weekly) is about the language of deaf people, but for hearing viewers. As the title suggests, it will only give access to the bare bones of the language. But with a book (already in its third reprint!) and a video it should encourage people to enrol in one of the many "Into Sign" classes being organised by the British Deaf Association in centres across the country.

It's the kind of course that television should be offering, and ought to have done long ago. Hopefully, this course will receive countless repeats in years to come - every hearing person should learn sign language.

Personally, it adds to my frustration that I can't physically sign. But at least I understand more now.

A Life of Our Own (BBC1, weekly) pioneers in a different way. It is a programme by and for people with learning difficulties and shows very strongly their potential. Its approach and language make very few concessions to anyone else.

By pitching itself at the level of understanding of the people in the programme, *A Life of Our Own* may risk confirming people's prejudices of "simple minds". But this risk is worth taking. I admire the programme for knowing exactly what its target is and being true to its aim.

It is also remarkable for the fact that one of the presenters, Gary Bourlet, is someone with a learning difficulty. By anyone's standards he does his job excellently.

If this series is to be a one-off, I hope that one of the other ongoing disability programmes (eg *Link*, *One in Four*...) snap him up. After all, these programmes are supposed to be about *all* disabilities, aren't they?

Listening Eye (C4, Mondays, beginning 11 April) returned for a third series of 7 programmes. Unlike other disability programmes, it does not feel obliged to cover more than one item per programme. By giving half an hour to a topic, it gains strength and depth.

I hope Bob Duncan, the programme's producer at Tyne Tees, can persuade Channel 4 that this format can be used for disability topics generally. We badly need our own *World in Action* type programme.

A Disability Disgrace (Open Space, BBC2, 11 April) came very near to being a pilot for such a series. It took an uncompromising, critical look at the inequity of the new benefits system. Excellent. My only surprise was its origin: the RNIB!

Chris Davies

Watch out for:

A new series of *Same Difference* which starts again on Monday 6 June at 6.30pm on C4.

Chairman Elite in elite surroundings

A new showroom designed for the disabled motorist has been opened at Gowrings Mobility International, Thatcham, Berkshire. It is the only one of its kind in the UK.

The full range of Chairman conversions is on show, including the new Chairman Elite (see below). There is plenty of parking space and you drive right up to the building. Inside, a wheelchair user will find ample space and everything accessible, including well-designed lavatories. Gowrings offers free refreshments to visitors and, by arrangement, lunch-time snacks.

Opening the showroom last month, Transport Minister Peter Bottomley spoke of the enormous progress there has been over the last 5 years in mobility and transport for people with disabilities.

He mentioned improved access to railway stations and trains, with fewer journeys having to be made in the guard's van;

standard taxis that can take a wheelchair; Dial-a-Ride schemes and new systems like the London Docklands Light Railway and the Tyne & Wear Metro where the needs of disabled people are considered alongside parents

Advice and Vehicle Information Service) in Berkshire, more disabled motorists, he said, are taking to the road. He wanted the good news of these developments spread around and disabled people not to be influ-



Chairman Elite (left), Chairman Escort (right).

with pushchairs and anybody with walking problems.

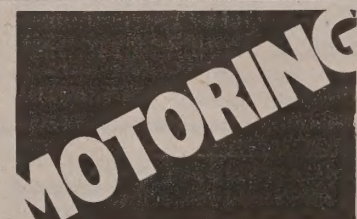
Now that there were assessment centres like Banstead Place in Surrey and Mavis (Mobility

enced by the negative views of the media.

The opening of the showroom co-incided with the launch of the Chairman Elite, a top-of-the-range conversion of the Ford Escort, designed "for the ultimate comfort and vision of the chairborne passenger".

At the press of a button, the rear lowers to almost ground level. As the rear door opens, a non-slip ramp drops down, which gives enough space for a manual or electric wheelchair. I found the slope easy to manoeuvre.

Electric non-return safety belts can be attached easily to the wheelchair outside the car and then fastened at 4 points inside. There is also an inertia reel lap belt for the wheelchair user. The wheelchair passenger has



better all-round vision than in the earlier models because of the raised roof and more glass. Besides the driver, there is also room for a front-seat passenger and for someone sitting on a small seat in front of the wheelchair.

The Chairman looks good, with tasteful carpeting and headlining. Other features include tinted glass, sliding rear windows, an adjustable reading lamp, a heater for the rear compartment, a cup holder and diffused light for rear access.

The 1.4 version of the Elite costs £11,757 and the 1.6 version £12,541.

I was glad to hear that because sales of the new Chairman cars are increasing, releasing more used cars, Gowrings has set up a National Used Chairman Agency. This could be a great help for disabled people who normally have no option but to buy brand new cars. Any used Chairman vehicles in stock can be seen in the showroom.

Gowrings continues to offer a no-obligation demonstration service anywhere in the UK.

Merle Davies

Gowrings Mobility International, The Grange, 18-21 Church Gate, Thatcham, Newbury, Berkshire RG13 4PH, tel: (0635) 71502/64464 or dial 100 and ask for Freefone "Gowrings".

Look out for...

The 1988 York Festival and Mystery Plays, running from 10 June - 10 July. The Festival organisers have produced a guide to the many venues around the city, specifically for people with disabilities. It gives information on toilets, access, parking, facilities for people with visual or hearing disabilities, and whether assistance is available. For a copy of the guide and a programme of events write, marking your envelope Disability Leaflet, to the York Festival Offices, 1 Newgate,

Kings Square, York YO1 2LA, tel: (0295) 73684.

Visual Images 3D, 4-18 June, is an exhibition of sculpture in clay, stone and wood, at the Milton Keynes Exhibition Gallery. You are invited to study the work at close hand and sculpture workshops for people with visual handicaps are to be held. Contact Libby Anson, Milton Keynes Exhibition Gallery, 55 Silbury Boulevard, tel: (0908) 605536.

Share Your Problems

With Margaret Morgan

Milestones or Millstones?

This is the title of the life story – to date – of a man with cerebral palsy who will be 60 early next year. Near the beginning of the book John Tinsley comments:

"Looking back I now regret deeply that I have not done much more in life. So many of my days have been wasted or thrown away."

When sending me a complimentary copy he wrote in his covering letter: "I am a Roman Catholic by faith and for over forty years I have lived in hospitals run by a religious order of men, the Brothers of St John of God."

Although I hate the word, I suppose some might say that I was institutionalised.

Before coming to live with the Brothers, I spent two years at Hinwick Hall, a Shaftesbury Society school for seriously disabled boys. However, I left school in 1945. This was before the conception and birth of The Spastics Society and I suppose there were fewer opportunities in those days for spastic young people.

My greatest handicap has always been one of speech. I am not an easy person to understand.

I wonder how many older spastic people like myself feel that it might have been possible for them to have achieved a lot more in life and who sometimes feel guilty within themselves that they have not done so?"

During my many years of contact with people with cerebral palsy I have met a number of older men who have expressed very similar feelings. Somehow, because they have not married and

had children and grandchildren, or because when they look back they appear to have achieved very little, they feel guilty and responsible for their apparent lack of success.

Some of the older ladies with disabilities whom I have met have felt rather differently. One expressed her views in this way:

"When I was a younger woman I was treated like a child and this attitude has continued, really. Many old people are treated like children too, so I can't see that there will be any time in my life when I will be regarded as an intelligent and mature person. As one gets older it's harder to go on tolerating these patronising attitudes, but I suppose things are changing, slowly."

In contrast, I have twice recently heard this semi-humorous reply to the serious question – in fertilisation terms – of when life begins: "When the children have left home and you've got rid of the dog!" The implication is clear: you have always been so busy and involved that it is only in later years, when responsibilities lessen, that you can really feel free enough to live.

I asked Bill Hargreaves for his comments (see also page 10). His reply was: "No one can really have any conception of how much they may have influenced or helped other people – and this applies equally to those who have very severe disabilities. And nowadays there are many more opportunities for all of us senior citizens."

John does, however, make an important point in his letter.

He and many of his contemporaries were born and grew up before The Spastics Society, MENCAP and other organisations had pioneered new services and lobbied national and



local government for better facilities for people with disabilities.

What John was offered when he left school was very different from what would be offered to a 16-year-old in 1988.

Had he been born thirty years later his life may well have been different, but it would not necessarily have been happier or more fulfilling.

Reading John's autobiography one is struck by the fun and pleasure that he has had from small everyday incidents and how much personal relationships have meant to him. The friendship and support that he has given to and received from a wide range of people indicate just how positive his contribution in life has been, and still is.

Because his days have not been as hectic as many of ours have been, he remembers incidents and people vividly and recounts them in detail, with great humour and commonsense.

Perhaps we should all remind ourselves of the good times, stop regretting what has not happened and look forward, as Robert Browning's Rabbi Ben Ezra does:

Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be.

Milestones or Millstones by John Tinsley is available from him at St Cuthbert's Hospital, Hurworth Place, Darlington, Co. Durham. £3.70, post free.

Association (Phipps Respiratory Unit), the Yorkshire Association for the Disabled, the Handicapped Adventure Playground Association, the IBA's London Local Radio Advisory Committee, the Prince of Wales' Advisory Group on Disability and recently Crusaid (for AIDS sufferers).

She was fortunate to belong to a united family and her mother and sister particularly were closely involved in all she did.



A tangible recognition of her contribution was made in 1976 when she received the OBE and was later elevated to the House of Lords. However, she would undoubtedly appreciate even more the knowledge that the world is a better place for disabled people because of her efforts and be sad that she could no longer play her part in further improvements. EF

Dr Derek Ricks

I first met Derek Ricks 35 years ago when we were members of rival scout groups in London.

Our paths crossed again in the 1970s when, as Head of Development at The Spastics Society, I visited Harperbury Hospital, a long-stay hospital for mentally handicapped people in Hertfordshire.

I soon fell under the spell of a man dedicated to his work with handicapped children.

His first target was to achieve recognition within the hospital for the speciality of paediatrics. Next he turned his attention to the Cerebral Palsy Unit and its children.

He saw no reason why the majority of children at the hospital needed to be in-patients, if support could be offered in the community.

It took almost a decade for Derek Ricks to complete the discharge programme at the hospital and in 1981 he moved with his multi-disciplinary team to nearby Harper House.

From here, until his untimely death in March, aged 59, Derek Ricks was able to demonstrate a principle which is now universally accepted: the community and the family are better places for handicapped children to live than long-stay hospitals.

More recently, Derek Ricks worked with Cerebral Palsy Overseas, on projects in Cyprus and Turkey.

His death has left a considerable void in the field of mental handicap, where his vision, original thinking and boundless enthusiasm will be sorely missed. RG

WHAT'S ON

Conferences and leisure

The Voluntary Council for Handicapped Children is holding its first annual conference on 8 June, 10.30am – 4.15pm, at the National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE. The theme is: Confidentiality and Informed Consent – developments and challenges for families and children with disabilities and special needs. The cost is £27.60 per person. For booking forms write to the address above or tel: 01-278 9441.

Disabled Living Services is running 2 seminars/training courses in June. The first **Elderly Hearing Impaired**, 9 June, is to create an awareness of needs and is aimed at those working in the community of residential homes with elderly people who have impaired hearing. **Hoists and Lifting Techniques**, 21 June, is a practical course for all those involved in lifting or handling patients to help them avoid back injury. The venue for both courses is Redbank House, 4 St Chads Street, Cheetham, Manchester M8 8QA. For more information contact Brenda Dickinson on 061-832 3678.

Special Activity Weeks for people with disabilities are being run by Bendriggs Lodge, Kendal, Cumbria from 20-24 June, (£100+VAT) or 22-28 August, (£140+VAT). All meals included, specially adapted facilities available. Outdoor pursuits will include canoeing, sailing, caving, archery, horse-riding and indoor activities, photography and crafts. Phone (0539) 23766 for more information.

The 3rd Mobility Roadshow for people with disabilities will be held by the Northern Ireland Council on Disability at the Kings Hall, Belfast on 24-25 June. There will be over 50 exhibitors, admission is free and opening times are 10am – 5pm. For details contact Noreen Slevin, NICD, Transport Co-ordinator, on (0232) 491011.

Barnes Family Gala 1988 is taking place on 26 June in Stoke Park, Guildford. Last year over 25,000 people visited the Gala and it raised £65,000 for people with disabilities. This year the target is £150,000. All the events, stalls, displays and shows are sponsored by business, so the proceeds go directly to charities. There will be more than 140 attractions in the park, running all day. For more information phone (0483) 578131.

An evening of Georgian dance, song and drama, presented by the British Theatre Association in aid of The Spastics Society, is to be held on 30 June at Regents College, Regents Park, London. There will be a buffet supper in addition to the entertainment. The evening begins at 8pm and dress is formal or fancy in a "Prince Regent" style. Tickets are £35 and are available from Jackie Shingles or Christopher Robinson, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, tel: 01-636 5020.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has organised a Special Needs Day at its Dungeness Reserve in Kent on 9 July, 10am – 4pm. There will be assisted access for people with disabilities. The RSPB also publishes leaflets entitled *RSPB Reserves for the Disabled* and *Birdwatching for the Disabled*. For copies of these and details of the Special Needs Day contact Gill Marriott, RSPB, 8 Church Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN4 5DQ, tel: (0273) 463642.

Activity Day at Castle Priory College, 9 July, for children and adults with disabilities, their families and friends. Activities will include painting, dancing, craft work, music making and some physical activities. Previous experience not necessary. The day will cater for all different levels of expertise and types of disability. For more information, contact Castle Priory at the address below.

Focus on the Potential, Not the Disability '88 is an international clinic to be held at the George Mason University near Washington DC, USA, from 26-27 September. The clinic will examine the role of physical activity in rehabilitation to independent community living. It is open to anyone who is interested in fitness and physical activity for people with disabilities. For information about fees and accommodation write to the YMCA of the USA Office of Special Populations, PO Box 1781, Longview, WA 98632, USA.

An International Conference on Severe and Multiple Disabilities for people with disabilities, carers, parents and people in government will be held on 5-8 November in Melbourne, Australia. The conference is the first of its kind in Australia and is part of the country's bicentennial celebrations. For full details contact the Public Relations Department, Spastic Society of Victoria, 135 Inkerman Street (PO Box 381), St Kilda, Victoria 3182, Australia.

Courses at Castle Priory

Blissymbolics Communication System – an introductory course relating to children or adults with severe communication disorders. 18-22 July. Tuition £130. Residence £98. Non-residence £40.

Care of Children with Special Needs – for residential, day care or welfare staff without specialist qualifications. 25-28 July. Tuition £65. Residence £74. Non-residence £30.

Goal Planning – a practical workshop on the Houts and Scott method of individual planning suitable for a wide range of settings and client groups. 5-6 September. Tuition £65. Residence £29.25. Non-residence £15.

An Introduction to Holistic Massage – a workshop exploring the therapeutic benefits for people with disabilities. 12-14 September. Tuition £69. Residence £49. Non-residence £20.

Further information from Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 0HE. Please enclose SAE. Tel: (0491) 37551.

OBITUARIES

Baroness Lane-Fox

Would Felicity Lane-Fox, Baroness Lane-Fox of Bramham, who died in April, aged 69, have made the same impression on the world if she had not been severely disabled? It's impossible to answer but there is no doubt that all she did and said on the problems facing disabled people carried tremendous weight because of her own experiences.

However, being disabled alone is not enough to make people listen. Much of what Lady Lane-Fox achieved in improving facilities for disabled people was accomplished because of her wisdom in knowing when to press an issue and when to let things simmer, because of her charm and sense of humour and because she had the gift of taking people with her rather than doing battle with them.

She was also blessed with a good brain and tireless energy. Her training in journalism and public speaking were great assets; they gave her the tools to persuade and cajole in print or when speaking to individuals or at meetings.

The number of meetings she attended during her life must have run into hundreds of thousands and her contribution as patron, chairman, president or member of many organisations is impossible to calculate. They included RADAR, the Patients'

CLASSIFIED

HOLIDAYS

THORNBURY HALL HOTEL, Churnet Valley. Specialised facilities for all disabilities. Companion service available (no extra cost) to allow all the family to enjoy themselves. Conference facilities and study/craft courses available on request. Colour TV in all bedrooms, single rooms available. Games room. Hotel stands in 5 acres of ground amidst beautiful countryside. Prices from £21.50 a day full board. For a brochure contact Thornbury Hall Hotel, Lockwood Road, Kingsley Holt, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs ST10 2DH, tel: (0538) 757220.

TAMAR CANOE CAMP 1988. If you are physically disabled, or able bodied and would like to learn about canoeing with the disabled, phone (0752) 897499 evenings, or (0752) 892461 days. Or write to Mr B Carlyon, 9 Savery Close, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0JR. Camp runs from 24 July-30 July, closing date for applications is 10 July. Price is £50 all inclusive.

FOR SALE

USED CARS from £3,000. For a selection of new and used Chairman cars contact GOWRINGS MOBILITY INTERNATIONAL. "Travel in your wheelchair in your car". Dial 100 and ask for Freephone Gowrings.

C-REG 1.6 ESCORT, blue, 19,000 miles. Good condition, hand controls fitted. £3,500 tel: Haselmere (0428) 4680.

B-REG RENAULT TRAFIC 1600. Converted to hold wheelchairs. 30,000 miles. Good condition, regularly serviced. £5,000. Lynn Legge (0705) 261985.

A HANDICAPPED CHILD?

I find Nannies and Mother's Helps for families with special needs. The jobs are demanding, rewarding and varied throughout Britain (some abroad). The carers are dedicated, trained/untrained, experienced/inexperienced, but all requiring "more than just a job". Please phone Torna Russell-Hills on 01-221 5894 or send A4 S.A.E. to Special Care Agency, 1st Floor, 45 Pembridge Road, London W11 3HG.

Member F.R.E.S. EMP AGENCY

BATRICAR 3-WHEEL scooter. 9 months old. Climbs hills and kerbs. Adjustable seat and handlebars, 2 speeds. Charger included in price £850 - cost £1,450. Very little used. 01-398 6634 (Thames Ditton, Surrey).

1986 EVEREST & JENNINGS powered wheelchair. Asking price £1,000. Please apply to The Bedford, Residential Centre, 34 St Johns Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6XL, tel: (0298) 3054 or 3106.

COMPLETE CARCHAIR SYSTEM (Attendant). Suit Ford Escort Mark 3-4. £800. (0378) 75984 (evenings).

BEC ELECTRIC CHAIR. Left foot control box. Good condition. Asking £250 ono. New battery required. Any enquiries to B. Isle, 10 Taliesin, Forgeside, Cwmbran, Gwent NP44 3LN.

EVEREST & JENNINGS "RUNAROUND" electric tricycle. Little used, good condition. C/w battery and charger. £750 ono. Tel: Bath (0225) 310272.

EVEREST & JENNINGS JNR manual wheelchair with 14" seat. £70 ono. Also **E&J ELITE** electric wheelchair with 16" seat and charger. In excellent condition and perfect working order. £400 ono. Both chairs now outgrown! Tel: (09274) 28506 (Northwood, Middx).

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS/SCOOTERS/BATTERY CARS. All makes, models wanted and for sale. Nearly new, hardly used from half price. Demonstrations and collections. Free advice. All areas. Contact Mr Gibbons. Tel: 021-357 4965 anytime.

STANNAH STAIRLIFT, 13 steps, 2 years old, good condition. Have to sell because moving house. Manchester area. £750 ono. Tel: 061-740 3064.

MINI CLUBMAN ESTATE HIGH TOP, suitable for chair-bound passenger. W-reg. Extremely low mileage. Front and side windows for passenger. £1,600 ono. **ELECTRIC HOISTS** - (1) Wessex Patient Hoist inc 8ft of track, spreader bar and slings £200 ono (2) Wessex Patient Hoist and transformer for bathroom use. 6ft track, spreader bar and slings £220 ono. Both items recently serviced. **PORTABLE HOIST**, manual with extension post £75 ono. Hospital type **OVER-BED TABLE**, adjustable height control. Offers. Phone Newick (E. Sussex) (082572) 2660 - eves and weekends.

ORTHOKINETIC TRAVELCHAIR suit child about 8 years. Complete with tray and bag. As new. £400 ono. Tel: Sandwell Spastics Society 021-357 9515.

BATRICAR 3-WHEEL SCOOTER, 2 years old, only used 3 times. Cost £1,200. Will sell £600 ono. Tel: 01-837 9793.

ELVA TWIN DELUXE, 2½ years old, front and rear lamps, shopping basket. Immaculate, hardly used. £1,500 new, £900 ono. Tel: 01-223 8367 after 5pm.

HOUSE FOR SALE, Orpington, Kent. 3-bedroom semi with garage. Fully adapted for disabled. Vertical lift. Bathroom hoist. Enlarged downstairs cloakroom etc. V.G.C. Price £89,500. Phone (0734) 422642.

WANTED

WAYFARER ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR, 17" seat width or similar outdoor chair with large front wheels. Please telephone (0803) 37578 (Torquay).

SAME DIFFERENCE would like to talk to people who have had problems with insurance, whether personal, house, car, holiday or any other type. We are particularly interested in problems that you have had because you or a member of your family has a disability. Please write or telephone Ann Pugh at *Same Difference*, PO Box 444, Bath BA1 2TP, tel: (0225) 446688.

FIND A FRIEND

29-YEAR-OLD SRI LANKAN woman whose one-and-a-half year old son has cerebral palsy, would like to correspond with other women in a similar situation. She has two other children and lives with her husband on a tea estate. Please write to Box No 522, *Disability Now*, address

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please note, for your display and recruitment advertising requirements contact Jonathan Wine at Kingslea Press, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays, Lower Road, London SE16. Tel: 01-252 1362.

Share your problems by phone

If you want advice on a personal or spiritual problem, why not talk to Lin Berwick, *Disability Now's* telephone counsellor, who is disabled herself?

Lin is at the end of the line on Monday afternoons from 1pm to 5pm, and on Thursdays from 6pm to 10pm.

Her telephone number is Hornchurch (04024) 58325.

on page 16, marking envelopes Private and Confidential.

SLIM BLONDE FEMALE would like to write to paraplegic male aged 25-35. Must be car owner, enjoy countryside, nature, literature, rock/folk music and preferably be employed. Photograph if possible. Cheshire, West Midlands or surrounding areas. Please write to Box No 526, *Disability Now*, address on page 16, marking envelopes Private and Confidential.

I LIVE IN A CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP house and would like to correspond with other disabled people who are Christians to find out whether they are given enough opportunities to express their faith adequately. I have cp and recently tried to organise a CHAD meeting but there was a very low turn-out. Please write to The Wolverhampton Christian Fellowship, 169 Newhampton Road West, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton WV2 0RR.

I LIVE IN THE WEST MIDS, am 31, have fair hair, brown eyes, I'm the cuddly type. Have my own nest, steed, creature comforts and mobile cp legs! Likes: Genesis,

Billy Connolly, the Arts and chocolate Hobnobs! Needs: tall chunky hunk (beard?), 28-36 yrs, for special friendship. No "fluffy dice, 3-2-1" types please! Please write to Box No 525, *Disability Now*, address on page 16, marking envelopes Private and Confidential.

FRIEND REQUIRED by cerebral palsied lady (aged 43 years) for companionship and outings etc, preferably male. Please reply to: Miss E Goodwin, Flat 3 Alasdair House, Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 0AQ.

Something to buy or sell? Looking for friends or staff? Why not advertise in DN?

For £2 a line, you can reach over 25,000 people. (Minimum charge £8. Find-a-Friend is free and all classified ads are free for members of The Spastics Society and affiliated groups.) Phone 01-636 5020 ext 245, or 01-252 1362 for boxed ads.

LAW CENTRES FEDERATION (LCF)

Following an internal review the LCF is recruiting new staff to take part in the development of its role as the only national organisation representing Britain's 58 Law Centres (including one each in Scotland, Ireland and Wales)

This represents a unique opportunity for people with imagination and energy to use and enhance their skills in the following posts:

PRESS, PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION WORKER (Full-time)

To promote the work, policies and image of Law Centres to national and local press, central and local government and to member and prospective member Law Centres.

REGIONAL FIELDWORKERS (4 days per week)

Two posts to promote and develop Law Centres throughout the country, including training needs, promoting Law Centre policies and acting as consultant on financial needs, and local and regional initiatives. One post to be based in the Midlands and another either in the North-West or North East.

FINANCE WORKER (3 days)

To have responsibility for the accounting systems for the Federation. Knowledge of computing systems desirable.

The Federation operates as a collective. All workers are self-servicing and take joint responsibility for the general running of the organisation. Computing skills useful although training can be given.

The LCF is committed to equal opportunities and welcomes applications from people with disabilities (unfortunately the present offices do not have wheelchair user access. Applications will be welcomed however from people applying for the Fieldworkers posts who are wheelchair users and can be employed from an accessible base), lesbians and gay men, black and ethnic minority groups and women.

Closing date: 30th June. Interviews will take place week beginning 18th July 1988.

Please write or call Lynn, Dean or Kaly at the LCF Offices, 18-19 Warren Street, London W1P 5DB. Tel: 01 387 8570.

WHITECHAPEL

Interested in the visual arts?

Want to work in gallery management but need some training? - Disabled?

The Whitechapel Art Gallery, in association with Shape London and the Arts Council, is offering a one year traineeship in arts management to a disabled person.

Bursary £6,500

Enthusiasm for the contemporary visual arts, at least one years work experience since school/college and daily access to the Whitechapel (London E1) are the only requirements, so please write for information (also available on tape) and application form to Suzanne Freeman, Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX.

Closing date for completed forms, 24 June.

SHAPE
LONDON

Arts Council Funded

SAME
DIFFERENCE

Weekly on Channel Four from Monday 6th June at 6 pm repeated Saturday at 9 am with subtitles/signing or on S4C: Tuesday at 5.30 pm from 14th June

4
CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION

Shape London

A Future for Disabled People in the Arts

PERSONAL ASSISTANT £9,333 PA

Apply for the post of P/A to Chris Davies, Director of this small dynamic arts organisation and join a friendly team in a fully accessible office.

P/T TRAINING ORGANISER (TEMPORARY POST) £9,333-£12,387 (pro rata)

To work with the present T/O on a jobshare basis implementing the arts training programme. In-service training available. 3 days per week for one year starting July 1988.

Applications from disabled people particularly welcome. Recruitment of a disabled person is a priority for the T/O post.

Send sae for further details to Shape London, 1 Thorpe Close, London W10 5XL stating which post interested in. Closing dates: P/A 30th June, T/O 10th June 1988.

KIRKLEES West Yorkshire
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

TRAINING OFFICER (3 posts)

Thorpe Grange Training Centre, Almondbury, Huddersfield

1. Management Development

Vacancy No. A/PERS 421 - Post No. 301180
Salary: SO2 (£12,432-£13,173) per annum (under review)

Applications are invited for the above post, which is based in the Council's Central Training Unit and which offers an opportunity to become involved in the training of all levels of management within a large Metropolitan District Council.

The successful applicant will join a team of Training Officers who provide a wide range of training activities for Elected Members and Council employees.

The main duties of the post will include the designing, implementing and subsequent evaluation of management and organisation development activities to assist managers to improve their effective contribution to the needs of the organisation.

The successful candidate should possess a professional qualification, have previous experience of Management Development techniques and be able to communicate at all levels on the subject.

2. Ethnic Minorities - Post No. 301220

KIRKLEES OPERATES AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY FULL DETAILS OF WHICH WILL BE SUPPLIED TO ALL APPLICANTS.

3. Disabled People - Post No. 301230

Vacancy No. A/PERS 422
Salary: SO1 (£11,322-£12,075) per annum (under review)

Applications are invited for these Section II funded posts from suitably qualified and/or experienced persons who will be required to demonstrate an ability to design, develop and present training programmes. Applications from the ethnic community and disabled persons will be particularly welcome.

The successful applicants will join a team of central training staff and will be expected to provide training for disadvantaged groups within the Authority and the community at large.

The main duties of the posts will include the research, development and implementation of training programmes based on identified needs with particular responsibility for ethnic minorities and disabled persons respectively.

If you think you can demonstrate the qualities required for these important positions, please write or telephone for an application form to: The Personnel and Management Services Division, Kirklees Metropolitan Council, Pearl Assurance House, John William Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1BA, telephone Huddersfield (0484) 22133, ext. 3104/3105.

Completed applications to be returned by 20th June, 1988.

The Council operates a Trade Union Membership Agreement



Clubbing together for jobs

The first Job Club for people with disabilities has been set up in Kent.

Since the club started in March it has had a 66 per cent success rate in helping disabled people get long-term jobs in open employment.

"We look at the person rather than their disability. We've had people with all sorts of different disabilities," says Kerry Sparks, the job club leader. "The only criterion is that they must be able to work in open employment."

People coming to the job club go on Job Search for two weeks. A group of 11-12 people learn everything, from using a telephone to interview techniques, via a video of a mock interview.

The job club also advises people on how to tell prospective employers about their disability, while stressing their skills.

Job-seekers then go into the job club and put the theory into practice. All the things necessary for job applications - word processors, photo-copiers, stamps - are provided, together with an induction loop system and any aids and adaptations they need.

The club has been advertised in local job centres and people have been sent along by disablement resettlement officers and social clubs. At the moment 9 people are in the job club and 12 in job search. There is a new intake every 2 weeks.

Kent County Council is responsible for the club. The Manpower Services Commission has given £22,500 and £2,500 has come from the oil company BP.

The club is due to run for 12 months and Kerry Sparks is confident that it will be renewed after that. The change-over from the Community Programme to Employment Training in September will not affect it.

Anyone interested should contact Kerry Sparks, Job Club leader, c/o ASSET, Kingslea House, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, Kent, tel: (0634) 576041.



Clamped London Dial-a-Ride users took their campaign for one trip a week to Parliament Square last month where they wheel-clamped their wheelchairs to symbolise that without transport they can get nowhere. They want more money spent on the service.

Housing consortia may solve community care housing crisis

One of the main stumbling blocks on the road to community care is the lack of access for people with disabilities to decent housing, says a new report published last month.

Forming a housing consortium to bring together health and social services, housing associations and other voluntary agencies is one solution to this problem.

The joint report by the National Federation of Housing Associations and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations Community Care Project outlines the potential benefits and pitfalls of this approach.

Using a special needs housing

consortium in the London Borough of Newham as a case study, the report outlines what a housing consortium is, what it does and how one goes about setting one up.

Alison Wertheimer, former director of CMH (campaign for people with mental handicaps) and author of the report, hopes it will be of use to people in health and local authorities, voluntary organisations and housing associations who may be thinking of starting a consortium.

Housing Consortia for Community Care, Publications Dept, NFHA, 175 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UP. £4.95.

Error means extra cash for charities

Twenty-four voluntary organisations which help disabled people are to get extra grants ranging from £500,000 to £5,000, as the result of a Government mistake in calculating the rate of inflation.

The inflation rate for 1986-87 was underestimated which led to social security claimants being underpaid. Over £6 million is now to be paid to volun-

tary organisations who help different groups of claimants, as an indirect way of repaying them.

SENSE, the charity for deaf/blind people, is to get £500,000 and the RNID is to get £200,000.

Eight organisations which help elderly people are also to benefit and lump sums are going to the NCVO, Charities Aid Foundation and Independent Television Telethon Trust to be used for funding local projects.

£100 million has already been paid to individual claimants.

Charities fear flood of appeals from social fund claimants

People in severe financial difficulty may be failing to apply to the social fund for loans because they think they will be unable to repay them, and charities are bracing themselves for a flood of requests for help.

"We have only been approached by one person so far, who needed new clothes. She did not dare ask for a social fund loan because she did not think she could repay it," said Susan Lang, principal of Lewisham Family Welfare Association.

"But Citizens' Advice Bureaux have been flooded with inquiries. Many of the inquirers will eventually come to charities for help, and long delays in processing claims are making the situation worse."

People asking the FWA for help will be told to register with

Charities Digest, a list of grant-making trusts edited by the FWA. These have been given to social fund managers. "The significance of this is obvious," said Joan Dixon.

The DHSS has also written to several charities, including The Spastics Society, Mencap and Help the Aged, asking for details about their services - "financial or otherwise" - and their criteria for giving help.

The Government has said the only time a social fund manager would advise an applicant to go to a charity for help is if a suitable one exists which has the money or services available.

"With charities being forced to fill in the gaps in welfare, they will be pushed into a more political role," said Joan Dixon. "We are very unhappy with state-



the social fund.

"It's very upsetting, but we will not look at anyone's case unless they have registered," said the grants officer, Joan Dixon. "We think people should go to the right agency for help: the DHSS."

This year, for the first time, the DHSS bought 1,000 copies of

ments from MPs urging people to give more money to charities so we can then give more to people in need."

Most charities have begun to monitor the number of requests for help since the fund was introduced in April, but according to Jill Lowe of Mencap, the full picture will not be clear for a while.

ONE COMPLETED COUPON AND DISABILITY NOW IS ANYONE'S

Disability Now is the newspaper for disabled people. It will also interest parents, carers and professionals in the disability field. And it's free!

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Assistant Editor Karen Wingate

Reporter Julian Marshall
Editorial Secretary Geraldine Holden

Circulation Gayle Mooney
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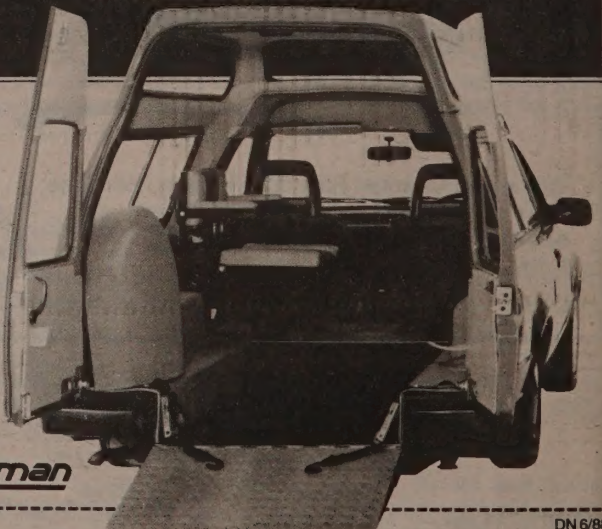
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